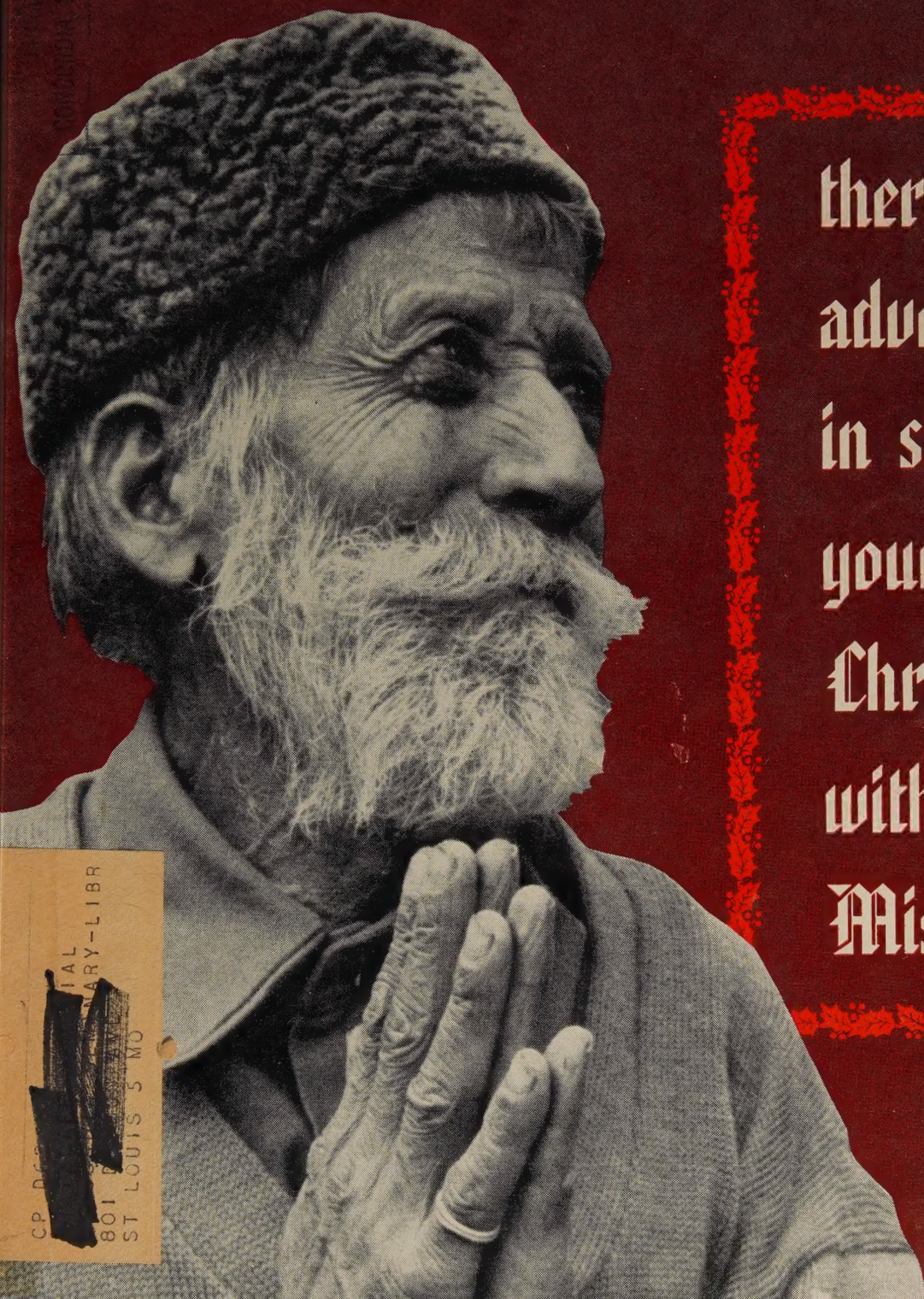


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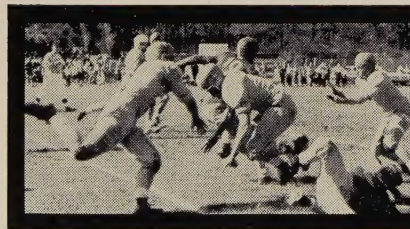
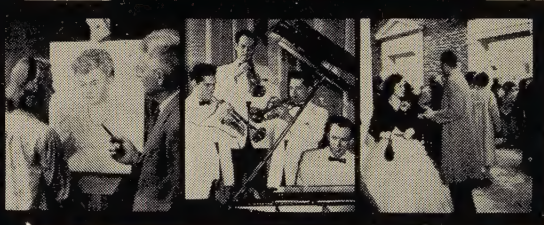
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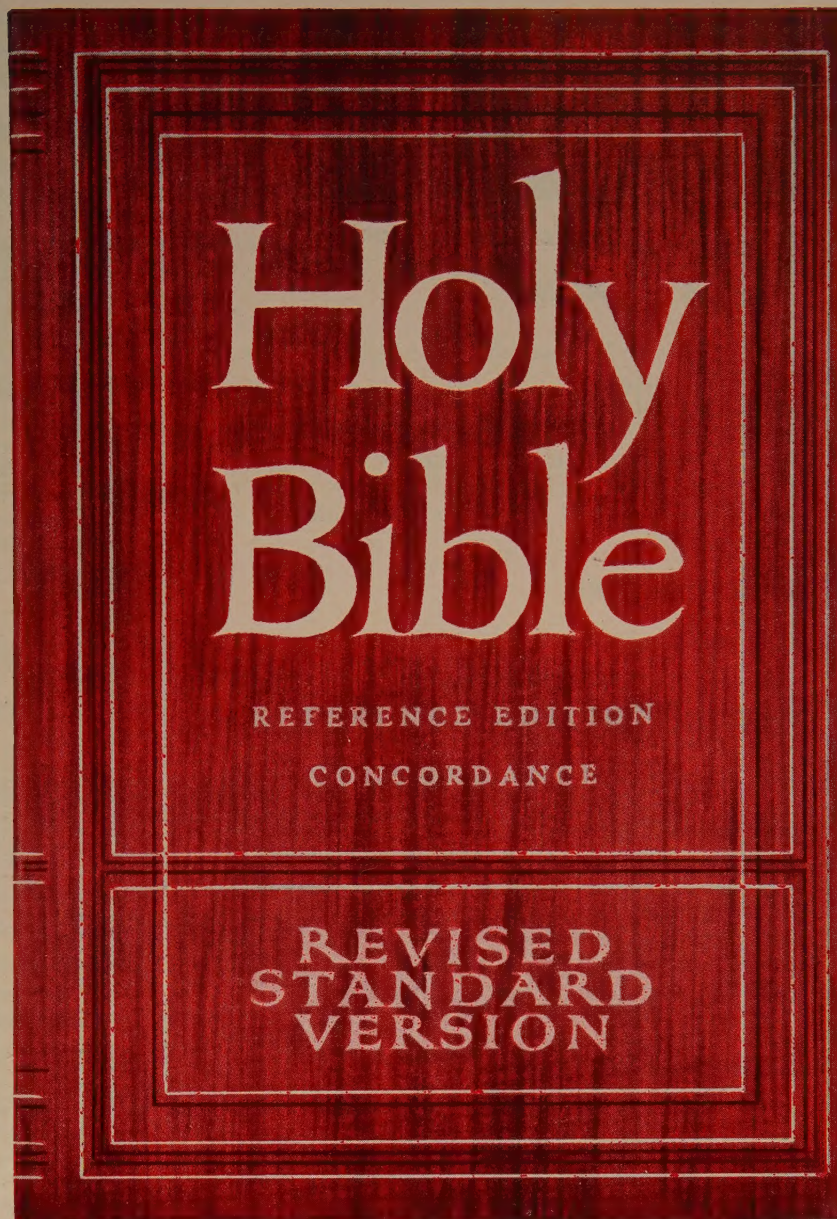
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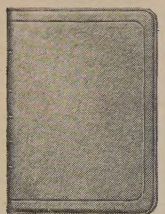
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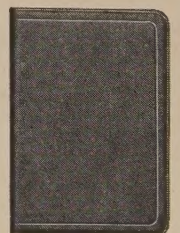


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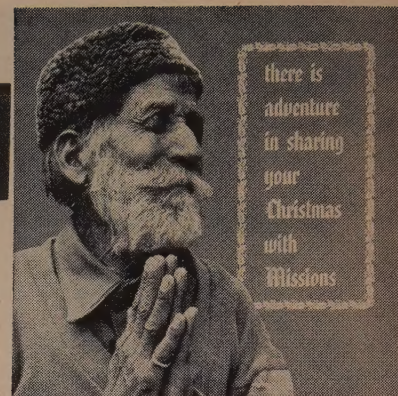
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The weathered face of this Tibetan native symbolizes a world of men with need; men whose biggest need is for someone to bring them into harmony with Christ. This Christmas you can be that agent for someone.

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The Year Was 1941

London was undergoing some of the worst bombing of the Blitz, and the night was torn by shrieking explosions as whole neighborhoods of homes and blocks of office buildings fell to destruction. In the darkened basement of a bombed out church a tiny group of men, women and children huddled together waiting...

A Strong Voice Out Of The Darkness

Suddenly one of the group, a minister, rose with Bible clenched tightly in hand and began to speak in a voice that was strong with faith. He was telling the ancient story of another time when people had huddled in fear at the foot of the cross—and of how they had heard the Savior saying, "Father, forgive them; they do not know what they are doing."

An Old Story Told With New Power

Somehow, the minister was giving the words new power and meaning for the little basement group. Somehow, as he spoke, the ancient model of divine love and forgiveness was clear to them in a way it had never been before. Jesus had always spoken directly to his listeners in the language they used daily and understood most easily. And now, at last, in spite of the terrifying conditions outside, the words were being spoken again in the language of the people. A great calmness and faith in God—a new courage and inner strength—swept through the once fearful group, and they listened in rapt attention as they heard in a fresh and more immediate language "The Good News" spoken anew...

A New Translation Is Born

It was perhaps on just such an occasion as this that J. B. Phillips first conceived his idea for a translation of the New Tes-

tament in the spoken English of today. During those trying days of 1941, it seemed particularly important to the Reverend Mr. Phillips that the members of his bombed out church should realize the full, present-tense vitality of the Word of God. As his project continued over the years that followed, he found ever increasing encouragement in the heartfelt gratitude of all who heard or read his work.

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● Editor Walker, left, at recent NSSA Convention, chats with Rohrer, Kimbel and Cunniffe (the latter two also of the CHRISTIAN LIFE staff).

Letter from the Editor

GREATEST of all holidays . . . celebrated in all languages . . . observed for more than two centuries—this is Christmas. And this is the month of Christmas.

What will Christmas mean to you this year?

If you are an average CHRISTIAN LIFE reader, Christmas will mean a time of rich spiritual blessing. You will meet with other members of your family around a Christmas tree and exchange gifts.

You'll sit down to a table loaded with good things.

You will worship the Lord in the quietness of this family circle thanking Him for His multitude of blessings upon you. Later at church you will sing His praises as you and others gather in safety and security.

But you are *average*. Remember this.

There are others who are not average.

CHRISTIAN LIFE may come to them as they writhe on beds of pain.

Or it may be that some thoughtful Christian has subscribed to CHRISTIAN LIFE for them—because they could not afford it themselves.

Or CHRISTIAN LIFE may come to those who represent you on foreign mission fields. Some of these are in areas of relative safety and security. Others are not.

To them, Christmas may be another day of wondering whether or not this will be the day their station will be attacked. They may face dangers—physical as well as spiritual—on Christmas of which you and I know nothing. For them, Christmas, instead of a time to be with their loved ones, will be one more opportunity to minister to the spiritually blind and physical sufferers who know nothing of Jesus Christ.

Does the plight of these fellow-believers in Jesus Christ mean anything to you?

If so, I invite you to turn to page 32. Here you will find a brief picture of the world of missions today. Here also

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my Jewels

Patty's Problem

down the street. She usually went to school with them.
"Better hurry, Patty, or Janie and Billy will go on without you," Mother said.
"I'm not walking with them to school today," said Patty. She could scarcely keep back the tears.
"Why?"
"Because they don't like me!"

MY PLEASURE



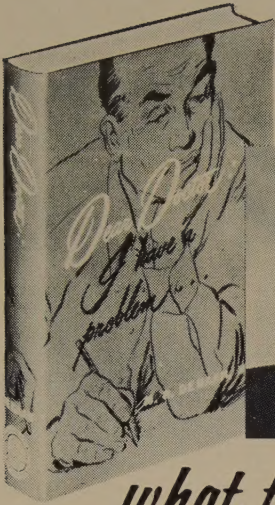
THE KING AND THE BEGGAR

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I tried all kinds of things at the time of the king and the beggar. I was very happy and I was very sad. I was very happy and I was very sad. I was very happy and I was very sad.

Dear Doctor, I have a problem

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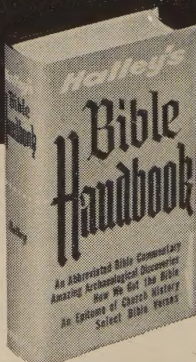
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is your opportunity to share your Christmas with these, your brothers in Christ.

As you read these pages, I am sure you will be reminded of the Word of God, "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

And because *He gave*, will you *share* at this Christmas season?

• • •

SEVERAL WEEKS AGO it was my pleasure to participate in a workshop at the annual convention of the National Sunday School Association in Detroit.

If you are a long-time member of the CHRISTIAN LIFE family, you may remember CHRISTIAN LIFE's famous Sunday school attendance contests.

In the course of ten years, the thousands of churches which participated in these contests, saw a total increase in Sunday school attendance of more than 3 million. Added to this is the fact that as the result of participating in these contests many congregations were forced to enlarge their church building to handle booming Sunday school attendances.

This decade of Sunday school attendance contests was concluded in 1957—to the regret of many of the CHRISTIAN LIFE Staff.

However, as I watched the thousands of eager and alert Sunday school teachers, officers and superintendents crowd into the NSSA sessions in Detroit, I was grateful again for the way the Lord had led so wonderfully, only a few months before.

One day late last summer, as a result of a series of conferences here at CHRISTIAN LIFE and in the headquarters of the National Sunday School Association, also in Chicago, a plan had been worked out whereby NSSA and CHRISTIAN LIFE will cooperate in sponsoring another great Sunday school crusade.

This will be held during the month of March, 1962, and will be known as the "March to Sunday School in March Sunday School Crusade."

As a result of the fine work which NSSA's executive director, Clate Risley, has done, a number of helpful contest tools will be available to help you.

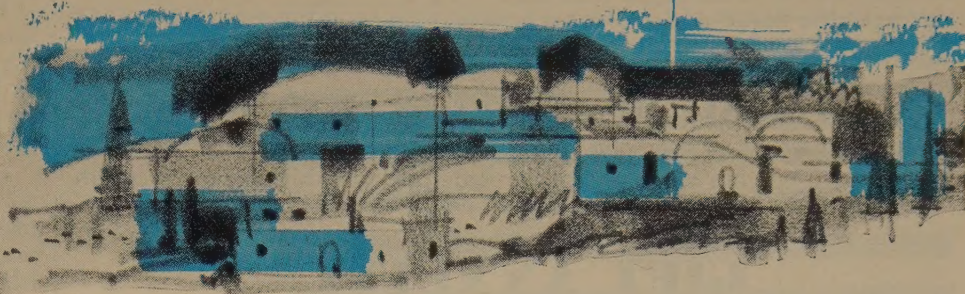
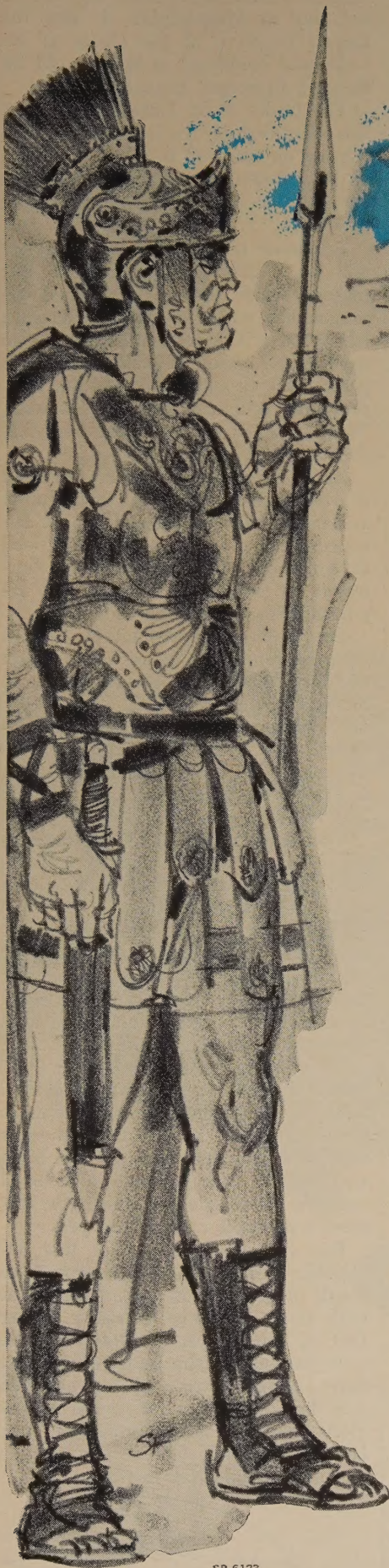
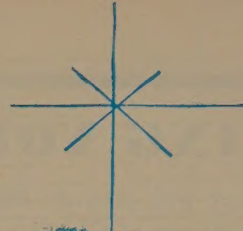
So look carefully in the January issue of CHRISTIAN LIFE for full details on the "March to Sunday School in March Sunday School Crusade." Meanwhile, alert your teachers and superintendents so that you may take full advantage of this great program of Sunday school evangelism.

• • •

SEVERAL WEEKS EARLIER, it was my privilege to attend another convention,

CHRISTIAN LIFE

FAITH...



is no stranger to the face of cruelty

The Darling of Heaven was sent into a world where a king's whim could murder hundreds of Bethlehem babies, and where the exquisite agony of crucifixion was considered routine.

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It's still a turbulent, cruel, restless world—sin and Satan see to that. We seem to be constantly living in the shadow of the dreadful mushroom-shaped cloud. Yet the problem is not new. There have been over 300 wars since the birth of Christ, many of them in our own time. Believers are still being persecuted and dying for Christ today, just as in other centuries.

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Through accepting the Lord Jesus Christ, man is born again, made a "new creation."

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Across the centuries, our Lord still says, "Be of good cheer, I have overcome the world!"

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To believers everywhere, we send the joyous greetings of fellowship in Christ, and we stand with you in the common task of sending the whole Word to the whole world. May the Saviour who lit Bethlehem's star, and made Calvary a symbol of Almightyness, be more real and precious to you than ever before!

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I have read with interest the publication "The Big Step" and have found it stimulating and informative. It is a dignified, clear presentation of the essential work of Christ's Mission, extending help to Roman Catholic priests with the hope that we may lead them into a saving knowledge of Christ.

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Cordially in Christ,

Paul P. Fryhling, Pastor
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Letter from the Editor

this one in Philadelphia. It was the annual conclave of the Order of St. Luke and convened in historic old St. Steven's Episcopal Church.

The Order of St. Luke's Conference was identified as "An international conference on spiritual healing," although its two thousand guests and delegates were drawn primarily from Episcopal Churches.

But more important, the conference will be a great benefit to you. The reason: while there I concluded arrangements with Dr. William Standish Reed for a Christian medical advice column. Dr. Reed, a well known surgeon, who also appeared on the OSL program, will prepare this column, "Family Doctor" for you monthly (see page 18).

As an Episcopalian laymen, Dr. Reed is well known both in his own church and in interdenominational circles. His concern for the souls of men—as well as for their physical bodies—is illustrated by an incident which was reported to me during the conference.

Dr. Reed, accompanied by several other conference speakers, left his hotel one day to walk the several blocks to St. Steven's.

Outside the hotel door, a beggar accosted them. Dr. Reed stopped, gave the man some money, and asked him if he knew Jesus Christ as his Savior and Lord.

To the astonishment of all, the beggar dropped to his knees. "I want to become a Christian," he said. "Can you show me how?"

Without a moment's hesitation, Dr. Reed likewise dropped to his knees. As the others stood awkwardly by and as cars and pedestrians passed, Dr. Reed opened his Testament and explained the way of salvation to the beggar.

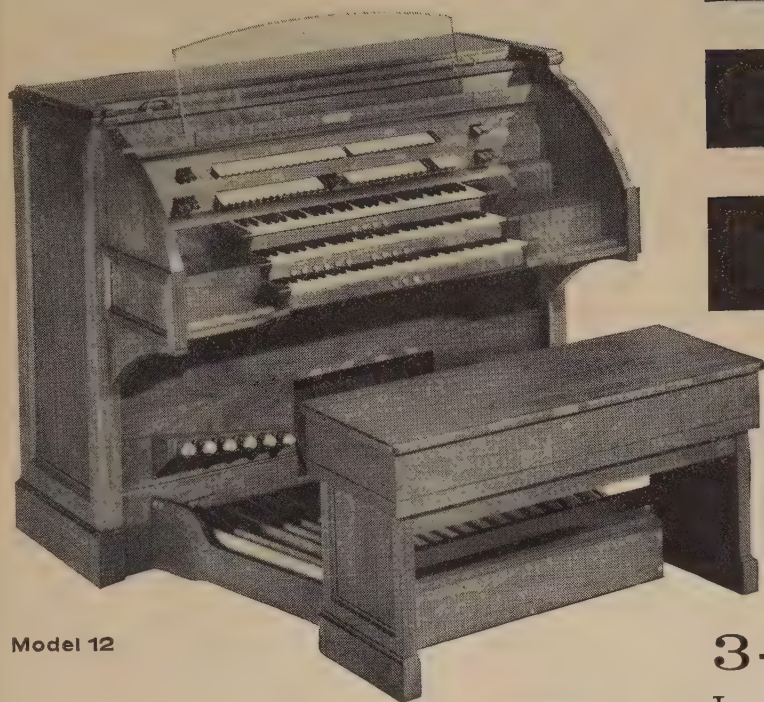
• • • • •

THIS is the glorious month of December. It is the month when, perhaps, more than any other, I wish I could meet you personally, take you by the hand and warmly wish you and your loved ones the Lord's richest blessing at this most wonderful time of the year.

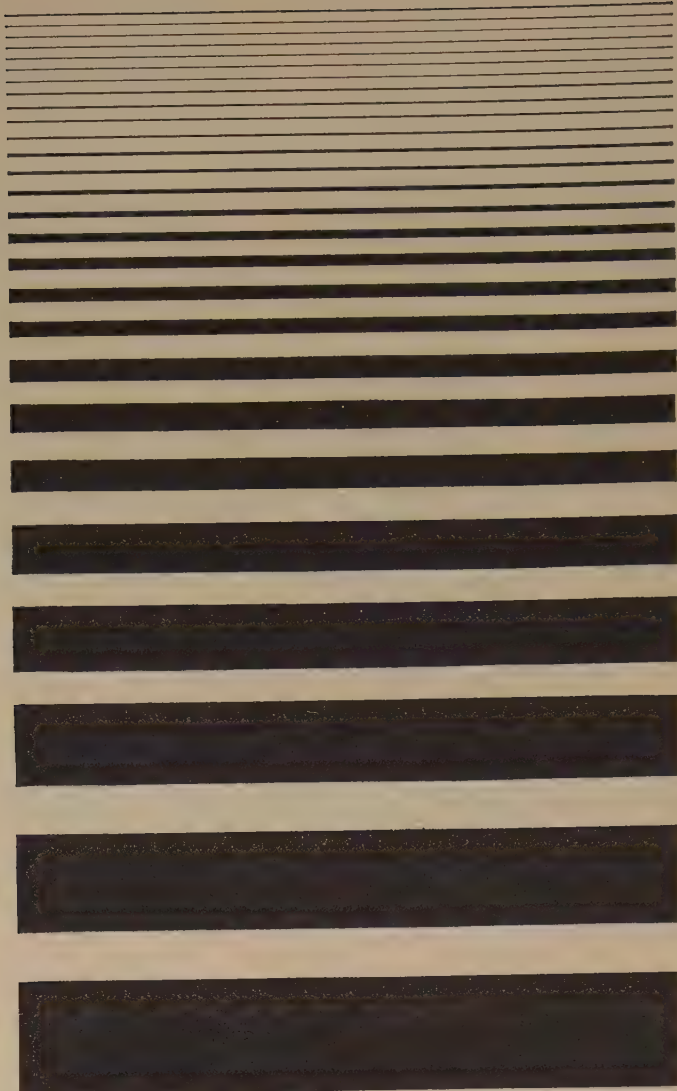
But since distance makes this impossible, I hope you will accept these words of greeting as second best. For with them goes my heart-felt prayer that in this month of December the very presence of the Lord Jesus Christ may become more real to you than ever before—so that the riches of His glory may be shed abroad in your heart by the Holy Ghost.

Sincerely in Christ,

ROBERT WALKER
 Editor



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PEOPLE and EVENTS

MISSIONS CONFRONT CULTURAL CHANGE

OLD UMTALI MISSION, SOUTHERN RHODESIA—The changing role of the U.S. missionary to Africa was explored here recently by the authoritative U.S. financial newspaper *Wall Street Journal*. The continent today, it pointed out, is no longer a jungle (or desert) apart from economic and political problems that plague the rest of the world. Consequently, it is increasingly difficult for the missionary to retain his traditional aloofness to the organizational world outside the church doors.

Result, states John R. Gibson, the *Journal's* staff reporter, is demand for cosmopolitan persons to serve the church; persons who speak not only the specialized language of religion, but who are conversant with the issues of the day, capable of appreciating the vocational life of the people.

PIANIST PLAYS COUNSELOR ROLE

ALAMEDA, CALIF.—In the classified section of the *Oakland Tribune* periodically a small ad appears: "Pianist plays hymns by phone daily for sick, despondent. Free." A phone number follows.

Mrs. Fairie Mae Stewart, the pianist, says, "This is the most rewarding thing I ever did."

When the phone beside Mrs. Stewart's piano jangles—as it does incessantly—the 67-year-old widowed pensioner is aware of one thing: There's a person on the other end of the line with a spiritual need.

"What would you like to hear?" she asks; then turns to the keyboard.

Some of her callers are very young—like the nine-year-old boy with a rheumatic heart who calls several times a week to ask for hymns like "What a Friend We Have in Jesus."

"In the past six months I have played for and talked to several hundred people," says Mrs. Stewart. "Most of them were despondent and opened up their hearts to me. Some ask, 'Doesn't listening to people's troubles make you despondent too?'"

"On the contrary," she declares, "it helps me very much. I can count my own blessings and appreciate them more when I listen to others tell about their troubles."

ASIANS NOW SENDING OWN MISSIONARIES

TOKYO—The countries of Asia, long the object of western evangelism, are developing their own missionary concern, according to the Rev. Kenneth Joseph of the Japanese Evangelical Overseas Mission.

Report indicates "Church heads in Thailand . . . feel that Buddhists in their land, who emphasize the Indian origin of their religion, 'might listen with special interest to Christian missionaries from India.'"

Examples of the trend toward "Asians evangelizing Asians" are the 1900-year old Mar Thoma Church of India, limited until recently to Malabar, which has now sent missionaries into other areas as well and is supporting two medical missionary fellowships in addition.

A native of Ceylon was recently sent to Nigeria.

Two ministers have been sent by the Korean church to Thailand; other Koreans are serving in Formosa, Mexico and elsewhere.

From the Philippines missionaries have gone to Thailand, Indonesia, Iran, Korea, Ethiopia, Turkey and other countries.

EVANGELISM MOVES GERMAN TOWN

DILLENBERG, GERMANY—Reports of conversions come continually from the area surrounding this small town of 10,000, site of two evangelistic crusades by the Janz Brothers in the past year.

A Christian doctor declares, "People



Janz team held seven Europe crusades in 1961.

ask me daily about Christ and the crusade."

States a Christian who holds a responsible position in a large factory: "Sometimes I have not been able to properly begin my work until 11 a.m. because of the many questions asked concerning Christ and salvation."

During the first crusade of two and a half weeks more than 100,000 persons from the area attended, making it necessary to twice extend the size of the tent. Sunday services drew crowds of some 13,000.

During a follow-up stop late last fall an outdoor meeting on a Saturday afternoon drew some 4,000 people despite threatening rain. Half-way through the service it began to fall steadily. A sea of umbrellas went up. Hundreds, without them, continued to stand quietly, listening to the message.

FIRST CHRISTIAN NAMED IN INDONESIA GOVERNMENT

DJAKARTA, INDONESIA—Newly-appointed acting president of this republic, according to report, is, for the first time in history, a Christian.

Dr. Johannes Leimena, appointed by President Sukarno prior to his departure for the neutral nations conference in Yugoslavia, is well known in Christian circles and has held a responsible position in the National Council of Churches. Previously he has also acted as Foreign Minister during the president's absence.

COMMISSIONER CHALLENGES CHURCHES

LAGOS, NIGERIA—"We need qualitative, not quantitative Christianity," observed the Nigerian Commissioner in Sierra Leone, Augustus Bandele Oyediran, here recently. Oyediran spoke in interview with the editor of the interdenominational English-language newspaper widely known as *African Challenge*.

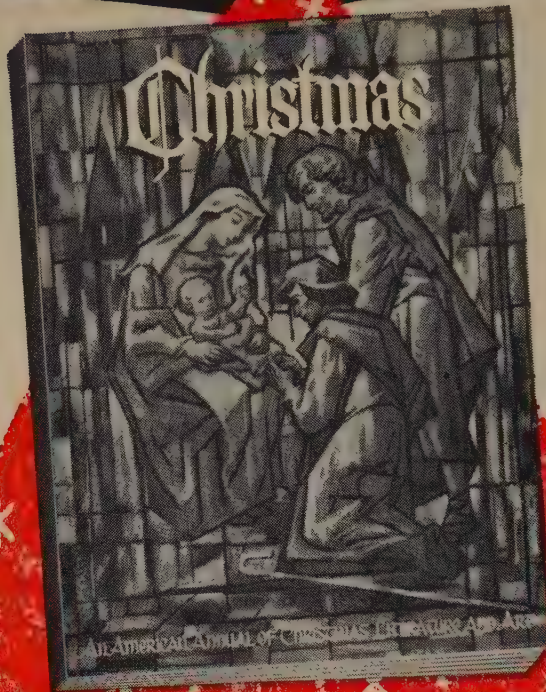
Commissioner Oyediran expressed disappointment at the work of the churches in many nations.

He commented, "If I have the opportunity to speak to the churches I will beg them in the name of our Lord to preach Christ and Him crucified. I will urge the preachers and other Christians to live exemplary lives."

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It has been said that *we teach in the same manner that we were taught*. And this is often true. Many of us who teach Sunday school classes continue to use the same teaching methods. We don't realize that there are new, improved ways of teaching.

For example, have you tried using Christ-centered filmstrips with records as teaching tools?

I would like you to have a new IDEA BOOKLET—full of stimulating ideas and suggestions for using filmstrips in a church with both teenagers and adults.

For instance, if you want to show teens that a Christian life is a life with *purpose* yet full of fun and joy, I would recommend that you use a new series of Family Filmstrips entitled CHRISTIAN TEENAGER'S FAITH FOR LIVING KIT.

If you feel that the adults in your group are baffled by the tensions and pressures of life in the space age, you can help them discover new faith and resources for living in the new filmstrip kit, CHRISTIAN ADULTS IN TODAY'S WORLD.

Do send for *your* free IDEA BOOKLET today—either for teenagers or adults. I will see that you get it immediately.

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Do you think that Christmas is a pagan holiday?

NO, I DO NOT. The Bible gives no indication as to the month and day when the Savior was born in Bethlehem. Early Christians chose December 25. It is true that there was a Roman holiday on December 21 or 22 which marked the winter solstice, the shortest day in the year in the northern hemisphere. The coincidence in dates does not make the celebration of our Lord's birth a "pagan" holiday, however. We should make it a time of gladness without commercializing it.

I tithe, but am not convinced I should make a "faith pledge." Are such pledges proper?

THE PRINCIPLE of "faith pledges" began early among Christians. You will note in II Corinthians (chapters 8 and 9 which deal with stewardship) that there is a reference to that practice (8:10-11; 9:1-9). The "faith pledge" is a promise which you trust the Lord will help you to fulfill. It enables the church or mission society to make out its budget. The principle is sound scripturally and economically.

A friend says women should never wear slacks because of Deut. 22:5. Is she right?

DEUT. 22:5 is the statement of divine prohibition against a woman masquerading as a man by wearing men's clothing. In some countries, such as China, the women wear trousers and the men wear gowns. (That may have been changed in the present Communist regime.) It is not my understanding that "slacks" are men's clothes. The propriety as to the place and occasion when they are worn is the factor women should decide according to the social standards of the area where they live.

Should we raise money through church suppers, sales, etc.?

IT IS MY persuasion that tithing and consistent stewardship of the Lord's people should support God's work, and not church suppers, bazaars, etc.

Is speech the word of God? Did speech come through evolution? (See Isa. 57:19.)

THE EXPRESSION in Isaiah 57:19, "the fruit of the lips," is explained in Hebrews 13:15 as praise and thanksgiving. It does not refer to human speech as such. Mankind was created with the ability to express thought in language. Human speech is not the word of God; rather, it is our method of expressing ourselves. The Bible is the divinely revealed Word of God.

My niece married a native of India. Are mixed-race marriages the will of God?

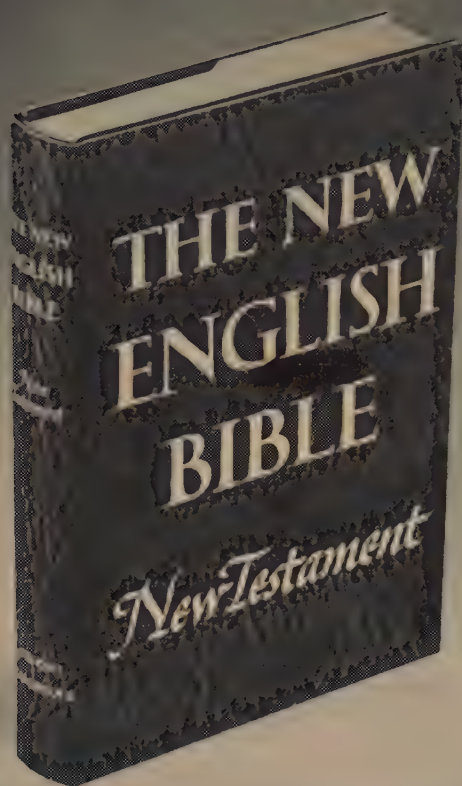
THE ENTIRE human family is descended from our first parents, Adam and Eve. Over the centuries the human family has become divided into races. The Scriptures say nothing about marriage between persons of different races. There can be difficult and serious problems in a mixed marriage of that kind, especially for the children. As to people from India, it is my understanding that they, like the majority of Europeans, are of Aryan stock. One can be glad that both are earnest Christians. Their cultural and national backgrounds may make more difficult their successful marriage, but not necessarily so.

Can Christians be demon possessed?

THEORY SAYS, no; but the facts say, yes. It is theoretical that a demon cannot possess a body in which the Holy Spirit dwells. However, I have known true Christians who were truly demon possessed; and who were delivered in answer to prayer given in the Name of the Lord Jesus.

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Your Opinion, Please

by Jane Hindman

What does the verse, "Fathers, provoke not your children to wrath" (Eph. 6:4 ff), mean to you, as a Christian parent, as you train your children?

Mrs. Lawrence Brush of Hicksville, Ohio, asked the question. Here's what five Christians say about it.

Louis L. Carter, physician and surgeon, First Evangelical, Memphis, Tenn.—It is certainly

possible to provoke children to wrath by inciting or some unreasonable demand made upon them. But through an early program of Christian training in the home, backed up by parents who live Christian lives before their children, such provoking is less likely to occur.



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Mrs. Russel Whiteside Rhea, homemaker, Christian & Missionary Alliance, Dobbs Ferry, N. Y.—We never

preach at our children. We do not expect them to have the Christian maturity we have. We pray and read the Word together and share the problems and joys of the day. To provoke is to lack in understanding the committal of every part of your life to the guidance of the Holy Spirit.



O. J. Wall, farmer, Evangelical Mennonite Brethren, Frazer, Mont.—With our words and

deeds we provoke our children to turn to the right or wrong; to Jesus or Satan. In a few moments of unwatchfulness we may undo very excellent training and provoke them to cast away their confidence (which has great recompense of reward. See Heb. 10:35). The negative of love and good works is wrath or resentment. We need to play the strings of love, joy and steadfastness in our children.



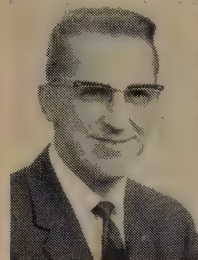
Mrs. Robley W. Davis, housewife, Methodist, Gilliam, La.—This means to me that



their father and I must ever strive to be Christ-like examples to our children, or reap the wrath of their disdain. We must employ loving, firm, consistent methods of discipline—not hasty commands and threats that produce

rebellion. In an atmosphere of cooperation, with love and reverence for God, they will more naturally transfer dependence upon us to trust in our heavenly Father.

Rev. Paul M. Johannaber, rescue mission superintendent, Baptist, Aurora, Ill.—Eph. 6:4



means to me that although I am responsible for the conduct of my child, I am to be careful of the manner in which I secure proper conduct. It was a wonderful experience to me as a young father to learn that when I corrected or punished our child in a calm and loving spirit, giving her as much reason for my action as she could understand, she responded with a repentant attitude and willing obedience.

We invite your thoughtful response to this question from Mrs. Norma Gates of Jamestown, N. Y.

What would you do if you felt you were already carrying more than your share of the load in your church, and were asked to do one more job—when you knew there were others with less to do who were capable and free to do it?

Your reply must be accompanied by your name, occupation, church affiliation and photograph, and received no later than December 15, in order to be considered.

All replies become the property of the magazine. Photos will be returned if accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Each person whose reply is published will receive as a gift a copy of the book, *The Christian's Secret of a Happy Life* by Hannah Whitall Smith.

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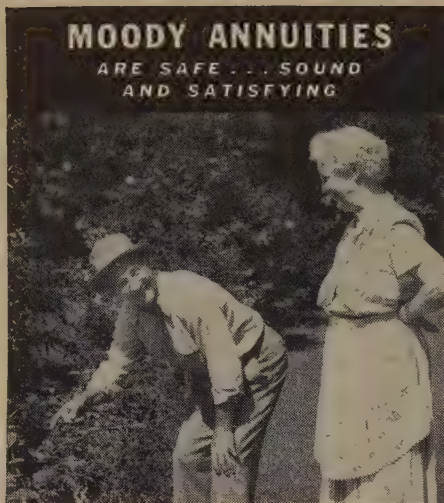
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FAMILY DOCTOR



● Dr. Reed is a widely-known physician and Diplomate American Board of Surgery. He will answer as many of your questions as possible if you address them to him in care of CHRISTIAN LIFE Magazine, 33 S. Wacker Dr., Chicago 6, Ill. Dr. Reed is a lay leader in the Episcopal church.

Q. I find myself unable to pray in public. Is this a mental, spiritual or psychological problem? Can you help me?

A. Often one's basic personality pattern makes it difficult to pray aloud in public. This should not be considered a problem and should not make one anxious or troubled. It is probably simply a matter of spiritual growth and as one develops spiritually, God's perfect love will cast out fear and allow anyone to be able to pray aloud. I do not believe this is a mental or a spiritual problem, but is simply a matter of development. All people are not alike. Some people pray best silently, others pray wonderfully well aloud. No doubt God loves both methods.

Q. After a thorough examination, my physician has told me that my husband has cancer. Should he be told? If so, who should tell him?

A. I believe if a person does not have a serious psychiatric disease, he always should be told that he has malignancy. This should be done with kindness and with Christ-like compassion. The examining physician who discovers the cancer ordinarily should be the one to tell the patient. Most cancer patients know they have cancer even when they are not told. In certain instances, patients have requested prior to operation that they not be told if they have malignancy and I have honored this request. However, even in this instance, one's silence with reference to the diagnosis is the means of telling the patient. It is difficult to generalize but, by and large, it is my belief and the belief of most physicians today that it is best to always tell the truth.

Q. I would like to participate in social activities at my church, but my wife does not. As an excuse, she says she is not well. My own opinion is that she doesn't like to be around people. Can she be helped?

A. Relative to social activities in the church, it is my feeling that worship activities and intercessory activities in the church are primary, and that social activities are entirely secondary. The church does very poorly in attempting to compete with the world as a social organization. It may be that your wife desires a deeper spiritual life than the social activities which you describe would offer her. It may be that she is not well. This should be ascertained by a thorough physical examination. In an effort to solve this problem, I would suggest also that you and your wife go and discuss this problem with your minister, that you try at home and at church to deepen your spiritual life, that you learn how to pray together and for each other to the end that you both may be healed of resentments, misunderstandings and lack of wholeness. The treatment of one half of a sick marriage is never satisfactory. The unity of the marriage or the personality of the marriage should always be treated with husband and wife together and never separately. It may be in this instance that the symptoms that are described are those of a marriage which needs spiritual help.

Q. A friend of mine has a child who suffers from muscular dystrophy. Is there any cure for this disease?

A. Muscular dystrophy is one of those illnesses which modern medical science has been able to help in certain ways, but by and large, results of the various modes of therapy have not been gratifying. There are, of course, different types of muscular dystrophy and it would be necessary to have the child seen by a competent neurologist and also to have him taken care of by the best possible people in physiatry (the new and growing science of massage, exercise and electrical stimulation of muscles). Here again I believe that medical therapy should be coupled with spiritual therapy in these children, giving the child full advantage of all of the doctrinal aspects of healing within the church; that is, frequent prayer, spiritual encouragement, laying on of hands, anointing and the partaking of Holy Communion. The motto of the person who believes fully in the Gospel of Jesus Christ must continue to be, "Though all men think my situation hopeless, nothing is impossible with God."

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Readers Write

Copies Bound for the Military

OVER THE YEARS in the military chaplaincy, I have thoroughly enjoyed **CHRISTIAN LIFE**. I have saved most all the copies of recent years and have them permanently bound for library use with our military personnel. APO, New York. TALMADGE F. MCNABB
Chaplain (Capt.) U.S. Army

C.L. a Tardy Homing Pigeon

I WOULD LIKE to express my appreciation for your splendid work found monthly in **CHRISTIAN LIFE**. I seldom get a chance to read my entire copy, however, as I pass it on to someone else and then it finds its way back many weeks later. . . . The article about the Vine Evangelical Free Church in Minneapolis was just tops. Could I get copies for distribution in our church?

Eau Claire, Wis. REV. NORMAN PETERSON
Bethel Church

● Yes, Sir. Reprints are available for 10¢ each.

Waves Flag for Womanhood

I REALIZE that the cause of womanhood is not always best served by flying flags in its behalf. But I would like to protest against the second response in "Your Opinion Please" in July. After living 17 years in a land where it is every man's privilege to have a concubine, and 25 years in another land where women's "highest calling and only reason for existence is to be a help mate for her husband" who paid a price for her and who is free to return her to her parents, and money back if she falls short of expectations, I feel that the statement in your magazine is an offense against all that Christ has done for women. . . . As Christ died for me, I count it a privilege and God-ordained duty to live first of all for Him. I praise Him that He has given me a wonderful Christian husband who is the head of our earthly family group and is honored and loved as such. But I also thank Him that I am a co-worker and partner with him in our mutual service. With him I am a joint-heir to all the privileges which belong to a child of God.

Portuguese E. Africa MRS. SUSAN MACY

Baptism Vs. Filling

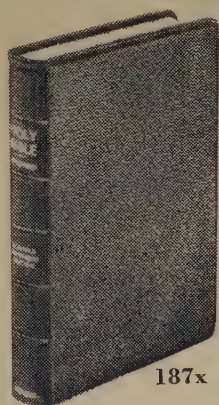
THIS LETTER is in regard to the emphasis in your magazine on the Person and work of the Holy Spirit. I agree that this is a much-needed emphasis in our day. For too long we have been for all practical purposes teaching a dualized Godhead. However, . . . we have confused the baptism of the Holy Spirit with the filling of the Holy Spirit. While Scripture does not exhort the believer to be baptized by the Holy Spirit, it does tell him to be filled with the Holy Spirit (Eph. 5:18). Baptism comes at the time of salvation and happens to all Christians. The filling of the Holy Spirit is to be that common Christian experience which enables one to serve his Lord. Perhaps greater results will take place when we stop seeking what we already have and start seeking that which Scripture commands us to have. . . . Keep on emphasizing the Holy Spirit.

Buffalo, N.Y. CHARLES A. HAUSER, JR.
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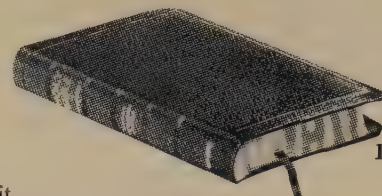
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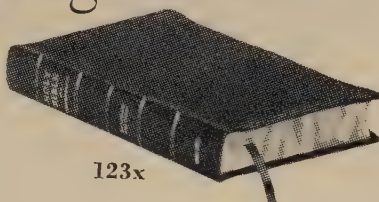
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WHAT'S SO UNUSUAL ABOUT THE BIRTH OF CHRIST?

One writer has captioned it "history's greatest mystery."

Here is the miracle of God identifying Himself with man.

by Leslie Flynn

Eastern Regional Editor, CHRISTIAN LIFE

FEW BIRTHDAYS have the national significance of Abraham Lincoln's on February 12 and George Washington's on February 22. One birthday alone receives worldwide recognition wherever civilization has gone; that of Jesus Christ.

We commemorate a famous person's birthday, not because there is anything so outstanding about his birth, but rather because his accomplishments in life were noteworthy. Nothing significant occurred at the birth of Lincoln or Washington. It was their achievements during their lifetime that makes us wish to signalize their birthdays.

But when we consider Jesus Christ, we see that not only was He unusual in life, but that He also was unusual in birth. The birthday of Christ is remembered on its own intrinsic worth.

What is so unusual about the birth of Christ?

First, He was born without an earthly father. As historic Christendom expresses it in the apostles' creed, which dates back to the third or fourth century, "I be-

lieve in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary."

Two of the four gospels record the virgin birth: Matthew and Luke. Matthew (Chapter 1, verses 18-25) gives the story from the father's side, telling of Joseph's problem on learning that his fiancée was expecting a baby, the angel's message, and Joseph's response. Here is the account:

Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privily. But while he thought of these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto

thee Mary thy wife; for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS; for he shall save his people from their sins. Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Behold, a virgin shall be with child and shall bring forth a son and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which, being interpreted, is, God with us. Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife; And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS.

Nothing could be plainer than that Jesus had no earthly father. In his genealogy in that same chapter, Matthew repeatedly uses the word *begat* in relating the male antecedents of Jesus Christ, but when he comes to express the relationship between Joseph and Jesus, he significantly does not say that Joseph begat Jesus. He says, "Eliud begat Eleazar; and Eleazar begat Matthan; and Matthan begat Jacob; and Jacob begat Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom (meaning "of Mary") was born Jesus, who is called Christ." Not that after a succession of begats, after 39 usages of the word *begat*, Matthew does not say Joseph begat Jesus, but that Joseph was the husband of Mary whom (of Mary) was born Jesus.

The other gospel which in unmistakable language relates the virgin birth of Christ is that of Luke, a physician, who wrote his account after careful research. Most likely, in his painstaking preparation for the writing of the gospel he visited Mary, the mother of Jesus, and learned many of his facts from her. Here is what he wrote. (Luke 1:26-35):

And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, to a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favored, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women. And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favor with God. And behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end. Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? And the Angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee; therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.

Some suggest that the story of the virgin birth may not be reliable because it is found in only two Gospels. But the Sermon on the Mount is found in only one Gospel, Matthew, in chapters 5 to 7. If Matthew in chapter 1 speaks of the virgin birth, then in chapter 5 gives the

Sermon on the Mount, why do we reject chapter 1, dealing with the virgin birth, and accept chapter 5 which records the Sermon on the Mount. If Matthew is reliable when he reports the Sermon on the Mount then he is also reliable when he reports the virgin birth. If not trustworthy on the subject of the virgin birth, then is he trustworthy on the Sermon on the Mount?

The Bible teaches that Jesus Christ was virgin born. His birth was unusual in this respect. The hymnwriter expressed the truth when he wrote,

*"Silent night, holy night,
Round yon virgin, mother and child."*

Another unusual feature about his birth is that He was born after many prophecies. Hundreds of years before the historic event at Bethlehem, prophets spoke of His coming, and foretold many events and circumstances that would occur during His ministry and at His death on the cross.

For example, it was written in the Old Testament that He would be betrayed, that His clothes would be divided and gambled for, that He would die with wicked men and be buried in a rich man's tomb. Even more amazing, perhaps, was the fact that His very birthplace, Bethlehem, was prophesied more than 500 years before He was born.

Said the prophet Micah, "But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall He come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting."

That is, out of Bethlehem was to come a ruler whose existence and activity had been eternal. When the Wise Men came more than half a millenium later asking where the King of the Jews was born, Herod summoned the scribes. They answered that the Christ was to be born in Bethlehem, then quoted this verse from Micah to substantiate their answer. In fact, Handel's Messiah, sung so often at this season, contains 75 verses from the Bible, 48 of which are from the Old Testament. 64% of Handel's Messiah is composed of verses predicting the coming of the Christ.

Another unusual factor about Christ's birth was that He was born without sin. Every baby born into this world is born with a sinful nature. We don't mean that if babies die, they are lost. Not at all. But we do mean that every baby, because it possesses a nature biased in the direction of wrong-doing, will later in life express that fallen nature in the telling of lies, or some sinful deeds. This is why everyone in the world is a sinner, because we are born with sinful natures. But that night when shepherds looked into the manger, they saw a babe of whom it could be said, "He will never sin." When the Wise Men found the Christ-child, they gazed at an infant Who when grown would be able to say, "Who convinceth me of sin?" All of us were born with a sinful bent, but not Jesus.

The birth of Jesus was different from ours in that He was born when He was thousands, yea billions of years old.

When Jesus was five minutes old, He was five minutes plus billions of years. When he was 12 years old in the temple confounding the doctors, He was 12 years plus billions of years. When He was 30 years of age, He was 30 years plus billions. You see—He always existed. "In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. . . . All things were made by Him; and without Him was not anything made that was

made. . . . And the word was made flesh, and dwelt among us" (John 1:1-14).

At Christmas we celebrate that time when He Who was the eternal Second Person of the Trinity, came down to earth and took on Him human nature, being born as a babe. Christmas honors the incarnation of the Son of God, when He became incarnate in human flesh. But the Lord Jesus Christ Who walked around the dusty paths of Palestine was present back at creation in His pre-existent state. He was present at Moses' burning bush, present in the wilderness wanderings. The Ancient of Days became the Babe of Bethlehem. Really, he was older than His mother. His birth differed from ours in that we did not live before we were born.

His birth was unusual in that He was born a king. No one is born a king. One may be born into a kingly family with prospect of later reigning. Usually he is first a prince, or prince-regent. But when Jesus was born, He was already King. "Where is He that is born King?" asked the wise men. The superscription over the cross read truthfully, "The

King of the Jews." When He comes again He will bear on His vesture this name, "King of Kings and Lord of Lords." Charles Wesley put it, "Hark, the herald angels sing—glory to the newborn King."

Something else unusual about the birth of Christ was that He was born amid wonders. The night He was born, an angel lit up the sky as he announced good tidings of great joy. Then he was joined by a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

The birth of Jesus was different from other births in that He was born to die. When a baby is born, relatives exclaim a "new life." They mean this baby was born to live. It has life before it. But Christ was born with the specific purpose of dying.

A newspaper columnist titled his article one Christmas season "History's Greatest Mystery." He said, "The deepest mystery in history is in the life of Jesus from the time of His birth and flight into Egypt to His 30th year, when He began His ministry and the last 3 years of His life. In those first 30 years there are only two sentences, totaling 18 words spoken by Him in all the known records." The columnist concluded that the reason for the silence in the four Gospels was that the apostles who wrote them were not biographers or historians. They knew Jesus only briefly, when He was already in the shadow of the cross. We might add to the explanation. It was the cross that was the most important part of His ministry. He came for the cross; He was born to die.

When you analyze the four Gospels, you note an amazing thing. Almost one-third of the chapters have to do with the final week of Christ—with His death.

If you were to examine the biographies you have in your library of great characters you would find that often only a sentence or perhaps a paragraph, or a page or two at most is devoted to the final week of the subject's life. But when you study Matthew, Mark, Luke and John with their combined 89 chapters on the ministry of Christ, you discover that not just one, two or three pages deal with His final week, but 29 chapters dwell on His days in the shadow of the cross.

Reason is, He came to die. Jesus Himself said, "I came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give my life as ransom for many." He affirmed, "No man taketh my life from me. I lay it down myself." When Jesus was transfigured, Moses and Elijah talked with him about what? Topic of conversation at the Transfiguration was the death which Jesus would accomplish at Jerusalem.

The Old Testament is filled with sacrifice: including lambs at the Passover, goats on the Day of Atonement, animals whose life was sacrificed and whose blood was shed. These animal sacrifices were typical of a coming, supreme, once-for-all sacrifice, after which no more sacrifice for sin would be needed. The New Testament pictures Christ as the Lamb of God Who takes away sin. Christ came to be God's final sacrifice. That's why Christ came in bodily form. That's why He was incarnate. You can't crucify a spirit. The Lord Jesus Christ in His pre-existent state was a spirit. But you can't put nails through a spirit. So Jesus was born that He might have a body to be offered up and blood to be shed. He was born to die.

Do you believe that Christ was born in a human body to offer Himself for your sins?

If not, you have missed the main meaning of Christmas. All the pageantry, programs, carols, gifts and merrymaking are without significance. But if you recognize that there was a Bethlehem, that there was a Calvary where Christ died for you, and you accept Him as your sin-bearer and Lord, you will enter into a deep understanding of the meaning of Christmas. "For as many as received Him to them gave He the power to become the sons of God, even to those that believe on His name" (John 1:12). Ω

This is how God answered my prayer:

Our 'Pack-Rat'

A YEAR AGO we went through a very trying experience with our son Kevin, who was five at the time.

We called him our "little pack-rat," for anything that was missing would be upstairs in Kevin's bureau drawer. At first we did not mind; in fact, we thought it rather cute. We always knew where to find the missing can opener, the key, etc. But when it began to be things from the outside, we became concerned.

Kevin would come home from shopping with us with a little pulley, an extra package of gum, even his locker key from the swimming pool, in his pocket. I could tell that it was not, as yet, dishonesty. He was simply in a stage of collecting "anything."

I tried to help him understand that taking things he did not pay for, or that did not belong to him, was stealing—but to no avail. Finally, one day I told him I would have to take him to one of the local police officers for a talk. This disturbed him not at all, as the officer was a favorite and a hero with all the kids. There was nothing he would like better.

Then one morning in church it was discovered that all numbers for the hymn board and register were missing. We felt sure it must have been Kevin again. We talked to him, but this time we felt by the look on his face that he really knew nothing about the numbers.

Nevertheless, I was concerned. My heart was heavy over Kevin's conduct. That morning as I sat in church I began to talk to the Lord about Kevin.

"Father," I said, "your reputation is at stake. My reputation, as a child of God, is at stake in the way that Kevin is acting. I cannot change him, but You can change him from the inside."

I added, "Father, I put Kevin into Your hands."

I do not know of anything, from that time on, that Kevin has taken that did not belong to him.

In fact, one day as I was leaving for a shopping trip on which Kevin was to accompany me, I overheard his brother urging him to bring him some gum.

Kevin quickly answered, "No."

Then, looking at me, he said, "That's stealing, isn't it, Mommie?" —MRS. IRVING SMITH, HOPEDALE, MASS.

Write us briefly about a striking answer to prayer. If it is published you will receive \$25. Submissions cannot be acknowledged but will be returned if a stamped, self-addressed envelope is enclosed.



Peter Shadid (left) found strong faith among many indigenous churches of Egypt and other Middle Eastern lands while on tour earlier this year.

New Spiritual Life in the United Arab Republic

by Leona Frances Choy

Though forced withdrawal of missions in many eastern areas has discouraged some evangelicals, this report points to a flourishing, virile work of God there.

A YOUNG MISSIONARY took a furlough in the opposite direction last summer. He entered a land which missionaries cannot enter. He preached freely in a country where the government forbids foreign missionary work. And God gave the increase in a harvest of souls above what he had ever experienced.

Peter Shadid, foreign student in the U. S., attended Eastern Baptist Seminary, returned to the United Arab Republic last June for several months of evangelistic work among his own people. Walking again the dusty roads that Jesus walked, going about the countryside on donkey or horseback or in a war-relic jeep, Shadid sensed the new pulse of his Christian countrymen. And it was a quickened beat of challenge and courage.

Shadid's first-hand impressions give optimism to mission-minded Americans who may be discouraged with the withdrawal of mission forces over great areas of the world. Meetings he held in his native Syria and in other parts

of the U. A. R. were the most successful spiritually he had ever conducted.

"People were hungry for the Word of God," says Shadid. "Every night you could see people confessing their sins and accepting the Lord." At night he preached in various churches throughout the U.A.R. and during the day visitation was carried on with national pastors.

Shadid, his father, brother Moussa, and other members of his family have had associations with the Christian and Missionary Alliance in its work in Syria since its beginning in 1922. His father, Ghattas Shadid, was one of the first converts of the missionaries. Firm, indigenous churches have been planted as a result of their labors. But according to the Rev. George S. Constance of the Foreign Department of the Christian and Missionary Alliance, all foreign personnel were withdrawn from Syria on government orders since 1958. Some foreign funds still subsidize the national work in Syria, but the government officially opposes any foreign religious work.

Because of this closed door American missionaries hailed Shadid's opportunity to visit Syria, Egypt, Lebanon and Jordan, and looked forward to news of how the young indigenous churches were faring. And Peter reports that his Christian countrymen are making valiant efforts to carry on.

Clearly, the most impressive aspect of Shadid's report is evidence of the clear working of the Holy Spirit in New Testament methods and power.

In most places the people are poverty stricken. There has been no rain for three years, forcing 100,000 Syrian farmers to leave their land and migrate to crowded Beirut, Lebanon, to seek a livelihood. Nine out of ten Arabs make their living directly from the soil as wheat farmers, olive growers, goat herders, camel breeders and truck farmers.

Yet Shadid discovered great opportunity for witness among them. "I found in the midst of their poverty, richness of God's blessing in their hearts. As in the days of the early church, the generosity of these poor people is so abundant it can be nothing but the Spirit's prompting," he reports.

In his hometown of Gha'som in Horan (Bas'han of the Bible) in Southern Syria, the Christians had 25 feasts for Shadid, in spite of every protest he could make. According to their custom they brought lambs from their meager folds to show their appreciation for his ministry. Both Moslems and Christians came to these feasts, sitting side by side on the floor, eating with their fingers and having long oral discussions in the Eastern manner. Shadid took this as an opportunity to further witness to them, point-



Peter Shadid's brother preaches to a typical gathering of indigenous believers in Jordan.

ing them to the Lamb, Jesus Christ, who was slain for them.

With his brother and a team of native pastors traveling in a jeep, Shadid preached in churches of various denominations. "Wherever we went the churches were full and the Lord glorified His work with us. We saw a new outlook, new methods, new hope, along with new independence throughout the U. A. R. In Beirut many of the churches are still denominational, with the major groups from the West being represented. But there seems to be a greater unity and cooperation among the evangelical groups than one would hardly believe possible. This is a work of the Holy Spirit who draws the Lord's own closely together. Somehow the absence of foreign missionaries has heightened this unity because the churches are now wholly on their own."

In Cairo, Egypt, Shadid visited a Spirit-led movement among evangelical nationals known throughout the country as the "Winning Souls Organization."

Arriving late at night, after preaching in another church, he was amazed to see hundreds of people streaming from the doors of the meeting hall. Usually no official minister is in charge, but lay Christian members assume all responsibility for the necessary ministries and outreach. Members come from the professions, the business world and the common folk.

"The night I visited there," Shadid reports, "a medical doctor was the evangelist for two weeks. Every few weeks, arrangements are made for similar speakers from among their own people. Insisting on genuine obedience to

the Word of God and godly living, the group has a one-year waiting period for new converts before they are recognized as active members. This group started ten years ago and now has six churches in Cairo with many others scattered through all Egypt. No support for this witness comes from foreign missions."

Construction has started by this church for a "lecture hall" seating three to four thousand people. This title, Shadid explains, must be used by believers rather than the word "church" in order to obtain a license from the government to build.

No stranger to persecution himself, Shadid asserts that, "The more persecutions these believers have, the more successful spiritually they are, and the Holy Spirit works in power."

Shadid remembers vividly scenes from his childhood when enemies set fire to the gate of their home in opposition to their Christian faith.

Later, when he was a young preacher, attempts were made upon his own life. But these days opposition is often subtle and unorganized, largely using the pressures of attitude.

"It is interesting to note," says Shadid, "that in this large group of believers there is no meeting held on Sunday morning. During the week the believers meet four or five times to share spiritual food, but on Sundays every believer goes to other churches or to outlying areas to minister the Word to others."

Another contrast with Western churches is that these indigenous groups of believers carry on wonderfully with-



In native costume, accompanied by other overseas students, Shadid speaks to American audience.

out committees, sub-committees, departments or parliamentary order. In place of this they hold an evening prayer and discussion once a week and every matter is brought directly to the Lord for decision. The Lord clearly leads without any vetos and criticism of friction among the brethren. There are no foreign mission departments or conferences to dramatically stimulate missionary zeal. But every believer is automatically considered a foreign missionary to spread the gospel to the utmost circumference of his contacts. There are no such people as inactive members taking up space on the church rolls.

According to Shadid, the trend is clearly away from the pastor-centered church where the leader does all the work and the people sit back and absorb the teaching. It is, on the other hand, toward the Christ-centered church, with the individual believer assuming responsibilities according to the gifts which the Holy Spirit gives in the local congregation. The Christians firmly believe that the Holy Spirit moves each believer to the work He has to do in a certain area, rather than committees deciding what the next worthwhile project should be and asking for volunteers.

Questions are frequently raised as to how the believers, most of them not even in the middle-class financial bracket, can support their own works since mission support has either ceased or is diminishing.

Shadid's reply is simple. The overhead of the churches is far less than in the West. One stained glass window

installed in the West could build a good-sized church in the U. A. R. Meeting places are not air-conditioned, even in the desert. Nor do they have splendid Christian education buildings, recreation halls and parlors. Being believer-centered, witness is spread out into the community rather than clustered in a church building with people invited to come there. This is a New Testament trend found generally everywhere. Moreover, says Shadid, a tithing congregation even in their poverty, can afford a pastor who lives on the same financial level as they.

Shadid never saw a church bulletin. Christians wait on the leading of the Lord for the order and duration of their meetings. And when they gather for the breaking of the bread, no questions are raised as to denominational ordination of those who officiate. In most cases you would not find anyone who comes to the table of the Lord unprepared in heart or life. The reason: everyone knows everyone else, and no one could be living in sin without it being common knowledge. Layman usually lead meetings and give testimonies in these gatherings. Shadid qualifies this description of Christian meetings as applying to most indigenous groups in the U. A. R. and in many churches in Jordan and Lebanon. He excludes the large denominational churches everywhere because they are largely patterned after the West in organization and more formal Western conduct.

"When people accept Christ in meetings they do not wait to go privately to another room to pray but are more

articulate. They pray loudly before all, confessing their sins and dealing directly with God in public," says Shadid.

Because the withdrawal of missionaries from Syria was not gradual nor planned, but forced on the missionaries by the U. A. R., most of the national works were ill-prepared for the sudden exodus. Some of the closed churches could not survive without a transition period because they depended so heavily on missionary personnel.

Lack of trained leadership in indigenous churches has not hindered men being used as greatly by the Lord as some of the leaders in New Testament days.

Some men are great evangelists who never finished junior high school. Shadid's father had only an elementary school education yet he founded all the work in southern Syria. Though he was a simple farmer, he rode a donkey or walked to preach for 15 years without a cent of outside support. The hardship of his labors for Christ, and an attempt on his life, caused his untimely death. But the Lord fulfilled his prayers that both Peter Shadid and his brother would surrender their lives to serve Christ.

With a background of service in the British-Arab Legion as interpreter, as principal of an elementary school in his homeland, and with years of preaching to his own people, Shadid feels that God has given him a new vision to meet the challenge of the times. He plans to establish an Arab Mission Farm in his country which would provide work, Christian training and evangelistic outreach for his people. With profits from the farm project, new indigenous churches could be supported by the people themselves without depending on help from the West which perhaps will soon have to cease altogether.

"Western Christians should not be disturbed to see national Christians left behind to take over God's work which foreign missionaries have been led to start," says Shadid. "Indigenous churches do *not* stand alone . . . the Holy Spirit is their first-hand instructor!" Ω

EDITOR'S NOTE

Since this article was written, Syria, trouble spot of the East, has withdrawn from the United Arab Republic. The future remains uncertain and the situation may change overnight. Despite political disputes, however; perhaps even through them, the hand of God continues to be evident.

Somehow I knew, as I had never known before,
what those two sharp words meant to Mary 2000 years ago:

NO ROOM!

IT'S KIND of exciting," I thought as I watched the sparkling lights of Hong Kong blink farwell. We were moving into Free China via airplane over Japanese occupied China. After living for nine months under Japanese Army Rule in Canton, we felt that we were outsmarting them, or at any rate losing some of our fetters. We didn't realize how much we were escaping until five days later when the Free China radio blared out: PEARL HARBOR ATTACKED! JAPAN AND AMERICA AT WAR!

"We definitely won't go back to Canton now," my husband said. At that very moment Japanese officers were taking over our home on the Canton compound and relegating our many friends to the small servant quarters. Our gratitude in escaping was enhanced because by now we knew that our fondest dreams were being realized: we were expecting our first-born. How thankful we were that it would not be in a prison camp!

However, life in Interior China was rugged. Because all our other missionaries were caught on China's coast and were in prison, we had to carry on for the Oriental Missionary Society alone. And we were without a home!

We became war orphans in Kulkong, begging a place to stay from any generous soul who would rent to us. First we lived in an orphanage. Then we moved to a little three-room Chinese house, where we set up the only headquarters for our work in China.

Although we had narrowly escaped prison, we hadn't escaped excitement. Three weeks before the baby was due, we received word from the American Consulate that the Japanese Army was moving up the rail line straight for our city. At their present rate, they

would arrive about the same time as our baby.

"I think maybe you'd better leave now," advised our doctor. To be nearer our Chinese co-workers, we had planned to move farther south in the fall. We prayed and decided to take the doctor's advice and move now.

We had arrived with 100 pounds of baggage. But after the war had broken out, cutting off all supplies from the United States, we had purchased a few tins of coffee and a few bars of soap. Coffee now sold for \$10 a pound and soap for \$2.50 a bar so we had to take as many of our supplies with us as possible. We packed everything, including our crude little home-made desk from which we carried on all mission business, and boarded the train with a sigh of relief.

The first part of our journey was reasonably modern and comfortable. True, the windows of the train were bombed out, and we were afraid to eat the food. But we had a little lunch and could get a good hot meal that night in the city of Lau Chau where we would board a boat and go down the river to Wuchow.

It was five o'clock in the afternoon when we disembarked that train. It had been mid-morning since we had eaten our lunch, so we were not only hot, tired and dusty, but also hungry.

I was big and uncomfortable. The tropical evening pressed down on me and every step became a burden. The doctor had warned me that I must not ride in rickshaws. Since there was no other transportation in the city, we began to walk. The train station was on the outskirts of the city, quite a distance from the center of town and the hotels. Chinese bedboards were a torture to me now, but A Bo, our faith-

ful cook who accompanied us, told us that this city might have some hotels with spring beds. She had lived here years ago. To find those spring beds became an obsession with me.

We had just started our walk when we were stopped by a man in uniform. "Please fill out these papers," he commanded politely.

To this day, I cannot understand the Oriental mind on questionnaires. Why it made any difference to them where my great-grandfather was born and why he died, I do not know. But we were guests in a strange land; therefore it was not ours to question.

We had just filled out the papers and started out again when our Chinese secretary came running down the road, panting and shouting, "You'd better go back. They're opening all your baggage." She had been left behind to see that our baggage got into the city.

My husband's eyes were filled with perplexity and misgiving. We couldn't afford to lose that baggage. But to abandon me in a strange city at this hour was even more distressing to him.

"Go on back," I said. "A Bo and I will walk slowly. You'll catch up with us."

"Yes," agreed A Bo. "There's only one way into the city. You'll have to pass us."

My husband reluctantly turned back and we began to meander towards the city. Blocks stretched into miles, and time stretched into hours. Still my husband had not caught up with us.

"I don't think I can go any farther, A Bo," I said wearily.

"We'll stop here and see if we can find a room," she said as she paused before an unpretentious building. Two men sat on a bamboo bench talking.

A True Adventure by Esther Hill

"Do you have a room with a spring bed in it?" A Bo asked hopefully.

"Lady, we don't have any room with any bed," the man answered gruffly.

"We'll have to go on to the next place," she informed me apologetically.

At the next hotel, a big fat lady, wiping from her mouth greasy stains of an appetizing bit of chicken, laughed and answered in a shrill voice, "No, we don't have any room. We filled up a long time ago."

We received the same answer from everyone.

By now we were not asking for rooms with spring beds. We were just asking for rooms. But no one had a room. And no one seemed to care. I was becoming nervous because my husband had not caught up with us.

"He has to pass us," A Bo reassured me. "There is only one way into the city."

No hotel rooms! No husband! The night was dark. A thousand feet on wooden keks, or slippers, clicked by. No one cared. The muddy waters of the river rushed on, carrying sampans full of noisy people. But I was alone in that city without a place to lay my head.

No room! Where had I heard those words before?

And then somehow I knew—as I had never known before—what those words meant to that other mother-to-be several thousand years ago.

"I can't go another step," I said as I sank on a stone wall beside the river.

"I'll run up this hill and see if I can find Hei Muk Sz," said A Bo, using the Chinese name for my husband.

I sat alone on the hard stone wall.

Continued on page 71



MISSIONS MADE THIS CHURCH GROW

Over a period of about ten years the church has grown spiritually as well as numerically—through worldwide outreach.

by Donald E. Hoke

President, Japan Christian College
Asia Editor, CHRISTIAN LIFE Magazine

WHAT IS the impact of an aggressive, all-out missionary program in the life of an evangelical church?

Colonial Hills Baptist Church in Atlanta, Ga., is quick to answer. In the words of its popular young pastor, Dr. Paul Van Gorder, "The missionary program has been a spiritual stimulus for every phase of our work here."

A look at the church statistics for the past decade dramatically confirms the pastor's judgment. Since 1950, when Colonial Hills began its present world-wide missionary outreach, Sunday school attendance has jumped from a 350 average to 950 students weekly. Church budget for local expenses has

more than doubled from \$31,000 to \$70,000.

Church membership has followed suit, jumping from 500 to 900 active members (all deadwood was cut out several years ago), with a total Sunday attendance of more than 1,600 persons morning and evening.

In 1950 the church had no young people on the mission field. Today there are 14 of the church's own young people, in addition to five other church members on the mission field. Meanwhile, ten other of the church's young people are preaching the Gospel in the United States.

And the church plant has expanded

several times to accommodate the growth. Four years ago a beautiful three-story, air-conditioned Christian education building was erected for the Sunday school. A few months later, a Christian day school was organized in the church to expand the church's Christian education program and make more complete use of available facilities.

Steadfastly resisting pressures to "keep up with the Joneses" by building a new auditorium, the church has squeezed and stretched its present old wooden building to accommodate its worship services at a minimum expense in order that its funds might be chan-

Members and friends of the church find displays of literature and curios from various countries to be interesting and educational to all ages.



neled for world evangelism. But God has made Colonial Hills increasingly a center of spiritual and influence for the entire Greater Atlanta area, which may force them to begin a new auditorium this year to accommodate increased attendance at both regular services and the numerous evangelistic campaigns and conferences which the church sponsors.

Most important of all has been the spiritual growth of the church. Souls have been saved almost weekly over the past years; spiritual life in the church families has deepened; and an ever-widening impact is being made on the community, observers there feel. And Pastor Van Gorder is increasingly regarded as one of the aggressive spiritual leaders of the South's greatest city.

The story of Colonial Hills' missionary program goes back more than ten years. After four years of pastoring the new church, born as the result of one of Jesse Handley's evangelistic campaigns in suburban Atlanta some years ago, Paul Van Gorder was invited to Japan in late 1949 to participate in the Pocket Testament League's distribution of Scriptures. He came back from that trip to the mission field with a new understanding of the Great Commission and a passion to lead his church in sharing Christ's burden for world evangelism. (See *CHRISTIAN LIFE*, Feb., '54, "Send Your Pastor to the Mission Field.")

At that time the church had been having a Bible conference for several years at which outstanding Bible teachers came for a week's ministry. In 1950 Van Gorder added to the Bible conference a missionary emphasis, climaxing on the final Sunday with the distribution of faith-promise pledges. Missionary giving more than quadrupled from its previous amount to \$6,999 as the result of the first conference. From then on, the number of missionaries supported and the budget practically doubled yearly till they reached a slight plateau of about \$57,000 in the years 1954 to 1957. Then in '58 the church took a new jump ahead with a missionary pledge of more than \$72,000 for 96 missionaries on 32 fields.

Last year the annual Bible and missionary conference closed with 375 families making more than 526 pledges which finally totaled more than \$109,000. To the skeptic who wonders if these pledges are paid, Van Gorder points out that more than 90 per cent of all pledges are paid yearly. And the total paid usually exceeds the pledge: in 1959, \$77,600 was pledged, and \$83,000 was actually spent for world evangelism.

A hidden blessing of Colonial Hills conferences, too, has been the impetus it has given other churches throughout



Pastor of Colonial Hills, the Rev. Paul R. Van Gorder, explains the pledge card to members.

the Southeast as Van Gorder has been invited to speak, spark and share their program with other congregations.

The annual Colonial Hills conference runs eight days, Sunday to Sunday, usually featuring three outstanding Bible teachers and three missionary speakers, plus as many other missionary representatives as possible. The conference actually begins six months in

Mission Emphasis Still on the Up

This article goes to press on the eve of the annual missionary conference at Colonial Hills Baptist Church. A late report from the Rev. Paul Van Gorder, pastor, reveals that \$100,000 is already in and that again the mission budget for the year is expected to be surpassed. . . . Elsewhere in this issue of CHRISTIAN LIFE the rewards of sharing in the ministry of missions—to both churches and individuals—is outlined in a special feature, "There's Adventure in Sharing Your Christmas with Missions." Be sure to read it.

advance when committees prayerfully go to work to lay out publicity, plan programs, schedule entertainment, and carry out the other myriad of details necessary for a smooth-running conference in which the Holy Spirit can work at liberty.

Then the weekday conference day begins with the prayer hour at 10 o'clock. Noon finds the speakers and

missionaries at fellowship around the lunch table, coming from the various homes where they are housed as an additional incentive to family missionary interest. Nightly programs begin at 7 o'clock with a missionary report hour from visiting missionaries, usually featuring slides or films as well. And then the evening service with two speakers. After the service, members and visitors linger around the attractive display booths illustrating the various mission fields.

And on Friday night, men of the church each bring a man from another church for the "Men for Missions" Banquet, one object of which is to fire these men from other congregations to carry the vision back to their own church.

Outstanding Christian music has always been a highlight of these conferences. As the result of careful planning and programming, the missionary conference is the highlight of the year at Colonial Hills. It is the heart of the church's spiritual life and growth, the pastor believes.

The reason, he feels, is understandable: because in the missionary program, the church is unitedly obeying Christ in prayer and stewardship to complete God's supreme command, the evangelization of the world. Ω

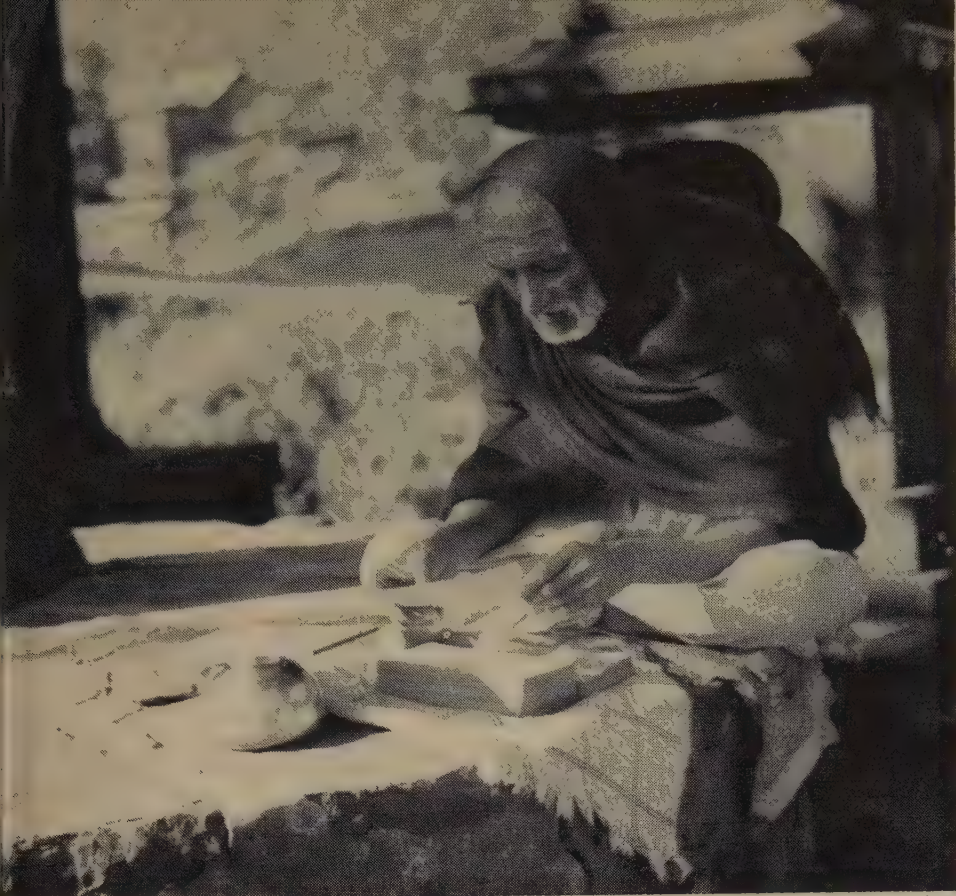
There Is Adventure in Sharing Your Christmas With Missions

**Schools, orphanages, medical missions,
literature — even the general fund — are
necessary means to communicate Christ.**

Missionary Gertrude Kellogg spends many hours teaching the nationals at her South African station toward that end: that they may know Him.

TEAM photo





TEAM photo

Typical among the scenes of native life to be seen in India is this Brahman priest at study.

In CHRISTIAN LIFE Magazine several years ago an anonymous article related how a family with seven children had agreed to give to missions the money they would have spent on one another for Christmas.

Ever since the appearance of this article, we have received letters from CHRISTIAN LIFE families who themselves have followed the same procedure and have received rich blessing from the Lord.

This month, we outline for you various areas of missionary activity. More can be added if you desire. But with this start you have an idea of the world need of missions—and of the opportunities open to you to share your Christmas with missionary needs around the world.

Wherever you look, the need is great. Pray for guidance by the Holy Spirit. Then don't simply give—but share—the good things that God has brought to you and your family with your fellow Christians, both missionaries and national Christians in other lands. We, the editors of CHRISTIAN LIFE, believe the Lord's richest blessings will be yours as you do.

Mission Schools Need Your Help

by E. A. Shank
Executive Secretary
South Africa General Mission

THE ART of teaching is as old as the human race. The responsibility to give the rising generation religious instruction was first commanded by God through Moses.

Jesus Christ came into the world and

"went about all Galilee teaching in their synagogues," and "He went up into the Temple and taught." His ministry was one which He Himself described in these words: "I sat daily with you teaching in the temple."

As founder of the church, He commanded His followers to go to all nations, "teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you."

In Africa, missionaries found a pastoral people who were illiterate. First, they had to be given the rudiments of an education so that the Word of God could be placed in their hands. This was true in other countries, too.

When primary schools alone were insufficient, high schools, teacher training colleges and Bible institutes were required. The Apostle Paul in II Timothy 2:2 gave to Christianity the pattern for the ages—"The things that thou has heard of me . . . commit them to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also."

Africa as well as other countries has too few schools to accommodate its exploding population.

Where is the Church of Christ in other lands going to get the required leaders sufficiently trained to preserve "the faith once and for all delivered to the saints?"

It is true that the government in many nations has taken over primary and secondary education, but many

PREACHING

THE GOSPEL

TEACHING

THE BIBLE

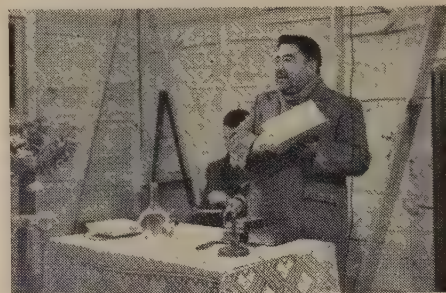
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CHURCHES



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CHILE: Juan Alvarez, first convert in Quillota Tent Meetings, an active layman, presenting Bibles for sale at Presbyterian Chapel, Quillota.



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Now you can help a Jewish child attend a Christian School in Israel! These children are from broken and underprivileged homes who, by the grace of God, have available to them sound Christian training, love, and care. You can help make this a reality in the lives of the Lord's little ones in the new, yet historic and prophetic land of Israel. Matt. 25:40

\$25.00 a month or \$300.00 a year will provide complete Christian and academic education by qualified and experienced Christian teachers. This amount includes complete support for the teachers and all necessary materials, supplies, and equipment for the children. Won't you ask God what He would have you do today? Fill in the coupon below, indicating your desire to help.

Mt. Carmel Christian School

c/o Mr. Nate Scharff, Box 696, Dayton, Ohio

Yes, I want to help a Jewish child attend a Christian school in Israel. I will:

- ☐ support one child for a year for \$300 per year.
- ☐ support one child for one month for \$25 per month.
- ☐ pray and help as I am able.
- ☐ Please send additional information

Name _____

Address _____

City and State _____



Upper photograph: Some of the children and friends currently enrolled in the Mt. Carmel Christian School. Lower: Mr. Nate Scharff, Executive Director and outstanding Hebrew Christian.

MOBILE CLINIC DEMOLISHED

Beth Albert's station wagon, used to reach 1500 leprosy patients at 14 scattered roadside clinics, has been recently ruined in a car collision near Poona, India. Replacement car and equipment trailer costs \$6,000. Will you help now?

INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN LEPROSY MISSION

Box 8164, Portland 7, Oregon, or Box 297, No. Vancouver, British Columbia



Share Your Christmas

have not as yet. Thus a Herculean task still remains for missionaries.

How can you help in this over-all educational program?

First, by going to the field as a teacher or by contributing to the operational expenses of the existing schools.

Second, you or your church or your group can adopt a national selected by a mission society and underwrite his expenses in coming to America for training, and returning home.

Any one of these could become the most exciting, enjoyable, and Christ-like deed you have ever performed. Try it! Ω

Christian Literature On Mission Fields A High Priority

by Kenneth R. Adams

General Director

Christian Literature Crusade

Chairman, Literature Committee

Evangelical Foreign Missions Association

MANY MISSION LEADERS, plus an increasing number of missionaries in the field, are becoming alert to the opportunities afforded by literature evangelism today.

Several factors have produced this increased awareness of the value of the printed page.

First, there is a significant new desire to learn on the part of people everywhere. It is particularly evident among nations that recently received their independence. An air of dignity and self importance has gripped the people. The man-on-the-street suddenly has become a functioning citizen. He is being called upon to make decisions.

Second, aware of the help needed by the ordinary citizen, governments are quickly preparing schooling and elementary education for all ages. And the response to this educational opportunity is phenomenal. Take India as an example. At the end of the war, approximately 12% of the people were literate. Now 40% can read and write.

Third, an imposing array of literature from many sources is beginning to appear in bookstores and on newsstands. Editors, journalists, translators and printers have joined hands to bring this about. Behind it all is the dedication of the few: the Communists, who vow to win the world in this century; the cults, which know the power and influence of the printed page; the secular world with eager eyes on a new source of revenue.

Fourth, and most significant of all, is that the larger proportion of the world's new literates—and they increase by more than 50 million a year—are



Christian Parents

This Month's DAILY FAMILY DEVOTIONS

In our family devotions for this month, we conclude the study of the book of Acts and prepare our hearts and minds for the Christmas season and the worship of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, through observation of His birthday. Remember the importance of having your family devotions, each day. Setting a definite time is important. Also, endeavor to provide everyone with the opportunity of participating — at

least in singing, reading the Word of God and praying. . . . Meanwhile, during the day, ask the Lord to prepare the hearts of each member of your family for the time of devotions. Expect the Holy Spirit to be present. Be prepared — and encourage the others likewise — to respond to the direction and guidance He gives you in your personal life and walk with the Lord Jesus. — The Editors

DECEMBER 1

Paul before Felix

ACTS 24: 1-13, 22-26

The Jews under the leadership of the High Priest, Ananias, are still attempting to have Paul condemned to death. They hire a professional Roman orator, Tertullus to plead before Felix against Paul. Tertullus uses flattery to please Felix and distort Paul's position. He is careful to give no facts and name no names or places. In verse 22, it is clear that Felix has heard about the teachings of Jesus, for this "way" to which he refers is also found in John 14:6. There Jesus says, "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life, no man cometh unto the Father but by Me."

Apparently seeing in this situation an opportunity to extort money, Felix puts off making a decision. He hopes to get this either from Paul or his friends. But when he can no longer put off the decision, Felix again calls Paul to him. This

time as Paul tells him about the Lord Jesus, Felix trembles. But unfortunately he puts off the decision once again saying, "When I have a convenient season, I will call for thee." . . . How important it is for us not to delay doing the Lord's will. Too easily we say, "Sometime in the future." We must respond to God when He speaks to us—today. When we bargain with God we lose contact with Him and our Christian life becomes powerless.

SING: Almost Persuaded

PRAY: Dear Lord, help me to make this day and every day wholly Thine. Help me to respond to every direction which you give.

DECEMBER 2

Paul Appears before Festus

ACTS 25: 13-27

Two years now pass and Felix is succeeded by Festus, as governor of Jeru-

salem. Festus, in turn, presents Paul to visiting King Agrippa and his wife, Bernice. To the Roman mind, the Jews' accusations are not clear. Nonetheless, these Roman rulers know that their reputation back home depends upon their ability to keep peace in this foreign land. Hence, whatever else they do, they must keep the High Priest and his followers quiet. Here again we see the wonderful way in which the Holy Spirit provides Paul with the opportunity of proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ. And all of those who have heard the "way" now have the responsibility for their individual choice—either for Jesus Christ or against Him. If we are only "almost persuaded" we still have the choice to make.

SING: We've a Story to Tell to the Nations

PRAY: Dear Lord, give me the words to speak about my Lord to those about me every day.

DECEMBER 3

Paul's Defense before King Agrippa

ACTS 26:1-6, 22-32

Paul now makes his last defense before going to Rome where he will appeal to Caesar. Under the conviction of the Holy Spirit, Festus who is also present at the hearing, accuses Paul of madness. To this Paul replies, "I am not mad, most noble Festus; but speak forth the words of truth and soberness" (Acts 26:25). Then turning to King Agrippa, whom Paul knows has read the Old Testament scriptures, he says, "Believeth thou the prophets? I know that thou believeth." Staggered by these words, Agrippa's only reply has come down to us through the ages for its tragic overtones, "Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian." . . . Today each man, woman, boy and girl, has the privilege of his own choice. He must reply, "Not as I will, but as Thou wilt," if he wants to put Christ first in his life. Have you done this?

SING: I am Thine, Oh Lord

Pray: Take from my life, oh Lord, all things that keep me from saying, "Yes" to Thee.

DECEMBER 4

Paul Is Delivered from Shipwreck

ACTS 27:1-44

Having appealed to Caesar for justice, Paul is given over to a centurion who is to take him by ship to Rome. Inspired by the Holy Spirit, Paul foretells that the ship will be wrecked. Both the ship's captain and the centurion ignore Paul's advice and the ship sets sail. But when trouble comes and a severe storm arises, the correctness of Paul's prophecy and his godly life and testimony to those aboard bear fruit. They now come to him for counsel and advice. . . . Today men often turn to God in times of desperation. But God knows the hardness of men's hearts and often allows situations such as this that men might be spared spiritually as well as physically. Remember, nothing happens by accident to those whose confidence is in the Lord. "All things work together for good to them who love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose" (Rom. 8:28). "As for God, His way is perfect" (Ps. 18:30).

SING: Will Your Anchor Hold

Pray: Show me Thy way, oh Lord, in all the stormy days and nights of this life — that I might put my trust in Thee.

DECEMBER 5

Miracles on Melita

ACTS 28: 1-15

Carried in by the waves and wrecking from the ship, Paul and his companions land on the island of Melita. As they gather wood for a fire, a deadly serpent fastens itself to Paul's hand. Unconcerned, he shakes it off into the flames and is unharmed to the amazement of those who witness the incident, lending proof to our

Lord's statement, "They shall take up serpents . . . it shall not hurt them" (Mark 16:18). Again the power of the Holy Spirit is demonstrated through the life of Paul, as he heals the father of Publius, the ruler of the land. Seeing this, many people of Melita come to Paul. He tells them about the Lord Jesus and His power to heal them of their physical disabilities and to give them eternal life through faith in Himself. . . . Let us remember that Paul's power to perform miracles is due to his total surrender to the Lord and to the complete absence of self-glorification in all that he says and does. This is the life of holiness to which God calls each of us today.

SING: To God be the Glory

Pray: Dear Lord, may I humble myself before You, acknowledging all that You do through me as coming directly from Yourself.

DECEMBER 6

Paul Arrives at Rome

ACTS 28:16-31

When Paul finally arrives at Rome, he is allowed to live in his own house under the guard of a centurion. Here he calls the Jews of the city together and recounts to them from the Old Testament scriptures how Jesus Christ has come as Messiah to save them from their sins. These Jews had already heard about the Christians, but they are not prejudiced against them. As a result, for two whole years Paul is able to speak and counsel with them. We know that many accept Christ as Lord of their lives, and churches are founded at Rome. This concludes our study of Paul's first trip to Rome as a prisoner. How long he remains a prisoner beyond the two years, we do not know. There is some suggestion also, that he went to Rome again as a prisoner. Apparently somewhere around 60 A.D., Paul was beheaded because of his witness for Christ. This probably happened at Rome—thus ending the life of the most colorful missionary in the history of the Christian church. Of this all-time world hero, we know he obeyed the word of God (I Peter 3:15) "Be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear."

SING: Standing on the Promises

Pray: Dear Lord, give me that holy boldness which governed Paul's life and ministry.

DECEMBER 7

First Thoughts of Christmas

GENESIS 22:15-19

It's not too early to begin thinking and talking about Christmas, one of the two most important holidays in all the world. Too often we fail to recognize that the first mention of Christ's coming to earth occurs not in the book of Luke—but in the very first book of the Old Testament. In Genesis 22:18 we read, "And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed." This promise made to Abraham was fulfilled in the coming of our Lord

Jesus Christ. As we are reminded anew of His birth in the lowly stable in these days just before Christmas, let us remember, as in the life of Abraham, God had a perfect plan for this special event. Our salvation did not begin at the birth of Christ. It was in preparation for us from the beginning of time and was foretold in the Old Testament, centuries before the event in the Bethlehem stable.

SING: The First Noel

Pray: Give me new insight into Thy great plan and program of redemption at this Christmas time.

DECEMBER 8

Isaiah Foretells of Jesus

ISAIAH 53

Yesterday we read about the prophecy to Abraham in Genesis concerning Christ's birth. Today we read the remarkable prediction which Isaiah made centuries before—both of our Lord's coming and of His death for our sins. His words echo down through the corridors of time—as true today as they were then, "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned everyone to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all" (v. 6). Our appreciation of the true meaning of Christmas depends upon our recognition of our own great need. Because of sin, we must turn from the material things of the world to Jesus Christ who alone has paid the price and penalty for our sin. Genuine happiness and joy at Christmas time comes only to those who know Him as their personal Savior and Lord.

SING: Good Christian Men Rejoice

Pray: Prepare my heart, now oh Lord, to be a true witness of Christ's redemption.

DECEMBER 9

The Message of Christmas Music

One of the many favorite carols we sing at Christmas time is, "O Little Town of Bethlehem." As a school teacher, Philip Brooks visited the Holy Land. On his return, he was inspired by the Lord to write this carol, and as a result later was led to enter the ministry. We know Bethlehem, of course, as the birthplace of our Savior. But we should also be aware of the fact that Bethlehem was the birthplace of Boas, Naomi and David. Both Boas and David were in the direct line of Jesus. . . . All the verses of this hymn must be read or sung to receive the full benefit of this moving tribute to the Lord Jesus Christ. Note, especially, verse 3. The gift of salvation is given in a quiet unassuming manner — as humble as was Christ's birth. But Christ has come in His own way and truly imparts to human hearts all that this night promises.

SING: O Little Town of Bethlehem

Pray: As we meditate on the wonderful words of this hymn, oh Lord, grant to us the peace of God in our hearts.

DECEMBER 10

Malachi Tells of Jesus

MALACHI 3:1-6

Today we consider another Old Testament prophecy that foretells the coming of Jesus Christ to earth. In the opening verse of the 3rd chapter of Malachi we read, "The Lord whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to His temple, even the message of the covenant whom ye delight in: behold he shall come saith the Lord of hosts." . . . The first "Lord" in this verse refers to Jesus, the Messiah. The last "Lord" is Jehovah, God. Malachi, as well as Isaiah, issues a warning to the people along with the prophetic promise of Christ's coming. The people of that day were looking for the Messiah, yet their hearts were not ready to receive Him. As we prepare for another Christmas season, anticipating the many happy events of the holidays, are we truly prepared to allow Christ to be the Lord of our lives? Is He more precious to us than He was a year ago? Are we living as if we looked for His second coming? These are sobering thoughts and ones which each of us should regard carefully at this time of the year.

SING: O Come All Ye Faithful

PRAY: Dear Lord, I must press forward in my closeness to Christ. Teach me how to do this.

DECEMBER 11

Christmas Greetings

LUKE 2:8-14

One of our favorite traditions at the Christmas season is the sending of cards or greetings. So far as we know, this practice originated in England in the early part of the 19th century. Today as Christians we echo the words of the angels who announced the birth of our Lord through our Christmas cards and other greetings. We proclaim the fact that He lives today. "Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. . . . Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." This we can do by adding a scripture verse to our card or enclosing a Gospel tract. And as we give testimony to our relationship to the Lord, let us be sure that "joy of the Lord" is seen in our faces and heard in our voices as well.

SING: O Zion Haste

PRAY: Dear Lord, may my Christmas greetings — whether written or spoken — speak to the heart of someone at this Christmas season.

DECEMBER 12

The Coming of John the Baptist

LUKE 1:5-25

About a year before the birth of Jesus, a priest by the name of Zacharias was ministering in the temple. For years he had prayed—just as Abraham and, years later, Hannah had prayed—that God would give him a son. One day God appeared

to him through an angel and promised him and his wife, Elizabeth, a son. But this was to be no ordinary son, "For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord . . . and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother's womb" (v. 15). But because Zacharias doubted that the angel was real, he was told that he would not be able to speak until the child was born. Sure enough, when he went out to tell the people what he had seen and heard, he discovered he could no longer speak. Zacharias now knew that the promise of the angel would be fulfilled; thus he looked forward with great anticipation to the birth of his son. . . . When we ask the Lord in prayer, let us be sure that we recognize the answer when it comes—and thank him for it.

SING: Hark the Herald Angels Sing

PRAY: Lord, help me to understand and do thy perfect will in all things, thanking Thee continually for Thy presence and power.

DECEMBER 13

Away in a Manger

LUKE 2:15-20

A favorite hymn of children is the much-loved Christmas carol, *Away in a Manger*. Its very simplicity makes it especially appealing. In the last verse of the carol we have the request, "And stay by my cradle 'til morning is nigh." To David of old came the promise to do just that in Psalm 121:3, "Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep." But read the entire Psalm and see how the Lord provides His protective care for you and your loved ones in every area of your life. . . . May we have the faith of little children everywhere who sing this delightful hymn that what God has promised to those who love Him, He is both able and willing to do.

SING: Away in a Manger

PRAY: May I recognize the presence of the living Lord Jesus watching over me as I commit myself to Him.

DECEMBER 14

Our Christmas Trees

ISAIAH 55:8-13

In many countries throughout the world a Christmas tree as we know it signifies the triumph of Christ. But in early times, the tree was symbolical of life, hence the early use of trees in the celebration of Christ's birth. Our Scripture reveals the joy we sense in the beauty of nature through its manifold revelation of the grace and goodness of God. As we decorate our Christmas tree, may we, therefore, be mindful of the one who made Christmas possible. In Him alone do we find the joy of the Lord.

SING: For the Beauty of the Earth

PRAY: God grant that our Christmas trees this year may be a reminder to us of both our Lord's life and death for us.

DECEMBER 15

The Angel Gabriel Speaks to Mary

LUKE 1:26-38

In the city of Nazareth, a few miles from the home of Zacharias and Elizabeth, lived a young lady by the name of Mary. She was a cousin of Elizabeth. One day the angel Gabriel appeared to her. "Hail, thou that art highly favored, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women," he said. He told her that she would bear a child who "shall be called the Son of the Highest." To these tremendous words, Mary replied, "Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to Thy word."

Thus God takes a humble and virtually unknown girl and through her reveals Himself in the person of the Lord Jesus. Like Mary we have no way of knowing in advance what God may ask each one of us to do. Our responsibility is to desire His will for our lives.

SING: It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

PRAY: Dear Lord, make me eager to do Thy will at whatever the cost.

DECEMBER 16

Mary Visits Elizabeth

LUKE 1:39-56

At the same time that the angel Gabriel told Mary she would bear a child who would be called "The Son of the Highest," he also told her that her cousin Elizabeth, an old woman, would bear a child. So Mary went to visit Elizabeth and Zacharias. As soon as she entered the house, Elizabeth said, "Blessed art thou among women . . . whence is this to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?" Mary replied with words of praise and thanksgiving, magnifying her Lord for His graciousness in allowing her to be the mother of the Lord Jesus. "My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior," she said. After this, Mary stayed with Elizabeth for three months since she was not married to Joseph as yet. We can imagine that these two women spent their days praising God for His greatness and goodness to them as they worked about the house.

SING: Angels from the Realms of Glory

PRAY: Teach us how to worship Thee, oh Lord, as did these two women so many years ago.

DECEMBER 17

While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night

LUKE 2:8-20

This is one of our most delightful Christmas songs. Those who have visited the hills of Palestine see fires dotting the hillside at night while shepherds come together to watch their flocks. We marvel again at the graciousness of God in allowing humble folk like these to first hear of the birth of our Savior and Lord so

many years ago. In Psalm 23, David speaks of the Lord as his Shepherd. In this Psalm we are made conscious of the great Shepherd whom God sent to redeem his people. How joyously we can sing the last verse, "Goodwill, henceforth from heaven to men begin and never cease." May our lives reflect this same humility and joy as we sing His praises at this Christmas season.

SING: While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks

PRAY: Make me continually aware of Thy shepherding care throughout each day, oh Lord, I pray.

DECEMBER 18

A Journey to Bethlehem

LUKE 2:2-7

When her time was come, Elizabeth gave birth to a son whose name was John. She and Zacharias, who has been filled with the Holy Spirit, now told the people of the ministry of their son to prepare the way for Messiah. Meanwhile, a decree had gone out from Caesar Augustus that everyone in Judea must be taxed. Mary, who had now become the wife of Joseph, with her husband, would have to go from Nazareth to Bethlehem in order to pay this tax. This was difficult because it was about time for her to give birth to the child which the angel, Gabriel, had told her about. When they arrived, Joseph could find no place for them to stay. Every room was taken. But Mary patiently accepted the circumstances. She knew that years before, God had revealed to the prophet Micah, "But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall be come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old . . ." (Micah 5:2).

SING: Oh Come, Oh Come Emanuel

PRAY: Dear Lord, help me to realize it is God alone who knows the end from the beginning in every circumstance that I face.

DECEMBER 19

Joy to the World

We like this carol because it allows us to give vent to the warm feeling of praise we have in our hearts to God at this season. Psalm 98: 4, 6, 8, 9 gives us a background for the inspiration received by the writer as he penned the words of this carol. Watts has called it "Messiah's Coming and Kingdom." Handel has written the music for this song of praise as he did for the hymn "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night." With this message of joy there is a sad note, however, for in the first verse we sing, "Let earth receive her King." Yet how few of the people of this earth have received Jesus Christ as King and Lord of their lives. As we sing this song, let us be reminded that we are the ambassadors of this King and therefore should proclaim His might and power each day.

SING: Joy to the World

PRAY: Lead me to someone at this season of the year, oh Lord, who needs to know the deep and abiding joy which can be his by surrendering to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

DECEMBER 20

The Birth of Jesus

LUKE 2; MATTHEW 1: 18-25

It was night when Mary and Joseph entered the overly-crowded city of Bethlehem. People had come from all parts of the country with cattle with which to pay their taxes. Joseph knew it was time for Mary's baby to be born. Finally, he found an inn keeper who was willing to allow them to occupy the stable for the night. Leading Mary on the donkey to the back of the courtyard, he unloaded their few belongings and made a place for Mary to lie down. That night, Jesus, the Son of the living God, came forth to live among men.

SING: Once in David's Royal City

PRAY: Dear Lord, thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus Christ to this earth to take upon Himself my sins. I surrender myself anew to Him today.

DECEMBER 21

Adoration of the Shepherds

LUKE 2: 8-20

Yesterday we left Mary and Joseph in the stable where that night the child Jesus, the Son of God, was born. That same night shepherds out on the hills watching their flocks, heard of the birth in a different way. Suddenly there appeared to them an angel who said, "Fear not: for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord." And then the angel replied to their unasked question as to where they might see this child: "Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger." Quickly these shepherds went to Bethlehem and there found the baby Jesus lying in a manger—and they worshipped him. On the way back to their flocks, they told all whom they met the wonderful things they had heard and seen that night. . . . At this season of the year, let each of us be sure that we make known to all whom we meet the true story of Christmas—the story of redemption through faith in Jesus Christ, our Lord.

SING: Away in a Manger

PRAY: Our Lord our God, we worship Thee for Thy greatness and goodness. Grant to us the ability to so believe in Him that we may speak forth His truth at all times.

DECEMBER 22

Silent Night, Holy Night

"Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright." No one can sing this carol without a feeling of awe. Look up at the

sky on a clear, dark night and you can understand how the shepherds felt that night so long ago when they heard the voices of angels singing. The words for this song were written on Christmas Eve by a young priest high up in the Austrian Alps in the little town of Oberndorf. Early the next morning he hurried to the home of his friend, Franz Gruber, the local schoolmaster who quickly composed the melody we now sing. That night in the little village church, the two sang the new Christmas carol which has come to be known as "The perfect song." Today its words and melody bring us a fresh reminder of God's grace and greatness.

SING: Silent Night, Holy Night

PRAY: In all of the activity of a Christmas season, show us how to worship Thee in pure and reverent simplicity.

DECEMBER 23

Christmas Holly

JOHN 19:1-12

Among the many traditions of Christmas, none is more colorful than our decorations with holly. But did you realize that tradition states that this colorful green leaf and red berry was associated with the torture of our Lord before His crucifixion. For some believe that the crown of thorns made by the soldiers and placed on the head of Jesus to mock Him was plaited from holly branches. Folklore says that the once-white berries were turned to red signifying the blood of our Lord. Although we may not accept these theories, we surely can allow our holly decorations to remind us of the sacrifice and death of the Lord Jesus that we might live eternally with Him.

SING: The Old Rugged Cross

PRAY: May all that we see about us that is beautiful remind us of Thy beauty and perfection, Lord Jesus, that we might worship Thee more perfectly.

DECEMBER 24

Wise Men Follow the Star

MATTHEW 2: 1-12

One of the many miracles attending the birth of the Lord Jesus, was the star which appeared over Bethlehem. Among those who were looking for the coming of the Messiah, were a group of wise men who lived far to the east of Jerusalem. When they saw the star in the heavens, they took this as God's sign that the Savior had been born. Immediately they set out following it to the land of Israel, "Where is He that is born King of the Jews, for we have seen his star in the east and have come to worship him." According to the directions of the Old Testament prophet, Micah, they went to Bethlehem. Following the star they came to Mary and the child, Jesus. Here, the Bible says, they "fell down and worshiped Him."

SING: We Three Kings of Orient Are

PRAY: Teach us how to worship Thee, oh Lord, as we ought to worship Thee. Thou art King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

DECEMBER 25
Christmas Day

LUKE 2:1-20

For family devotions today, follow the schedule outlined here.

SING: Away in a Manger
O Little Town of Bethlehem

READ: The entire Christmas story as listed above (Luke 2:1-20)

SING: Hark the Herald Angels Sing
Joy to the World

PRAY: We lift our hearts in praise to Thee, Lord Jesus, because thou art both Lord and Savior whose birthday we observe today. Teach us now to serve Thee with all of our hearts.

DECEMBER 26
Christmas in Sweden

All too quickly in America the true spirit of Christmas disappears. The day after Christmas, much of the joy and rejoicing at the birth of the Savior is forgotten. Not so in Sweden and various other countries of the world. In Sweden for instance, Christmas celebrations continue until January 15. We are reminded in the Scripture for today of the events that followed the birth of the Lord Jesus and of the continuing worship on the part of those whose hearts were fixed on God and who, as a result, recognized in this little babe, the Savior of the world. God grant that we, like Simeon and Hannah, we may be so sensitive to the guidance and direction of the Lord that we may see Him in our every day activity—after Christmas as well as before.

SING: When Morning Guilds the Skies

PRAY: Oh Lord, speak to our hearts each day so that we may be willing and eager to do Thy will whatever it may be.

DECEMBER 27
What Is Your Desire?

I Peter 2:1-2

During the past few weeks you have spent much time and effort and probably money seeking to satisfy the material desires of your loved ones. But what of the spiritual desires of their hearts and yours. Peter speaks of new believers in Christ as "newborn babes" who should desire the sincere milk of the Word." Why? That they might "grow thereby." Someone might ask, "How can I know if I am a Christian?" The answer to this question is clear: we can know when we become a Christian when our desires change. And this change is accomplished only by the entrance of the Holy Spirit into the heart and life of one who has said, "Yes" to Jesus. Hear Paul say to the Christians at Corinth, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature (or creation): old things (desires) are passed away: be-

hold all things (desires) are become new." (II Corinthians 5:17).

SING: Breathe on Me, Breath of God

PRAY: May the thoughts and interests of my heart, oh God, be acceptable in Thy sight. May my desires be guided constantly by Thee.

DECEMBER 28

Malice

I Peter 2:1-2

We have been thinking about the desires of those who know Christ as Savior and Lord. Peter, as do we, knew that there were five basic diseases which could hinder our spiritual growth. The first he mentions is malice, which is defined as a deep-seeded feeling of ill will towards someone else. This feeling is contrary to God's plan for us as believers. In this same chapter, we are told to honor all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. (v. 17). Meanwhile, the apostle Jolia says, "Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God." (I John 4:7). Therefore anything contrary to love is not of God and has no place in the heart of a Christian. David realized this when he said, "Create in me a clean heart, oh God, and renew a right spirit within me." (Psalm 51:10).

SING: Take My Life and Let It Be

PRAY: Cleanse my heart of all malice, oh God, and fill it with thy love for all men.

DECEMBER 29

Guile

I Peter 2:1-2

The second hindrance to God's desire for our lives is guile. Guile goes a step further than malice in that this feeling of ill-will takes on a treacherous aspect. Perhaps we have kept our feelings to ourselves, but now in the exercise to guile, they are exposed to others. Perhaps someone has said something about you—about the way you talk or walk, or wear your clothes—and you resent it. At first you have only malice in your heart for that person, resenting him for what you think he has said about you. But when Satan starts to tempt you, he is never satisfied to get you to commit one sin; he presses on to get you to commit more and more sin. As the result of the resentment in your hearts, soon you begin to say unkind things about this person to others. You may even tell untruths—and thus become guilty of lying. What have you gained? Nothing but a lack of fellowship with the Lord and a feeling of hatred for yourself because you have stooped to such sin. This is your only reward. . . . By contrast, David says, "Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Thy sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer."

SING: Let the Beauty of Jesus be Seen in Me

PRAY: Forgive me, oh Lord, for my lack of love toward my Christian brothers and sisters.

DECEMBER 30

Hypocrisy

I Peter 2:1-2

Throughout His earthly ministry, Jesus scored hypocrisy. He was especially critical of the Scribes and Pharisees for their outward display of religiosity while their hearts were steeped in sin. This was hypocrisy. The root meaning of hypocrisy means playing a part. As Christians—particularly young Christians—we must be sure that we are not simply playing a part, but that we truly have surrendered our lives to the Lord Jesus. As parents, too, we must be sure that our children understand that conversion is a personal surrender to Jesus Christ. This is something that each child alone must do; we cannot do it for him. Many young people, even adults, have grown up in a church atmosphere, never knowing the deep joy of personally asking Christ Jesus to come into their hearts. Remember His own words, "Behold I stand at the door and knock: if any man hear My voice and open the door, I will come into him and sup with him and he with Me" (Revelation 3:20). Be sure therefore that you and your children understand the message of the song we sing today.

SING: Jesus Loves Me

PRAY: Give me spiritual wisdom and understanding in explaining the way of salvation—both for myself and for my children.

DECEMBER 31

Envies

I Peter 2:1-2

We have already discussed the tragic results of evil speaking provoked by guile. Now let us consider the last characteristic to be avoided: envies. This word occurs many times in the word of God and always to the sense of being a sin. To the non-Christian, envy is natural. This is so, because the natural man is in constant competition with others around him. His objective is to get the best of them by fair means or foul. This is the way Satan leads those under his control. But this is not God's way; "For God is love." Those who are his followers desire to help their fellow-men. They are not jealous of the good success of their fellow men but rejoice with them. The Bible says, "Having food and raiment let us be therewith content" (I Timothy 6:8). God alone knows what is best for you. You are his creation, and he loves you with an everlasting love. You can have complete victory over all of these diseases that hinder your desire for God when you look to him, "Now thanks be unto God which always causes us to triumph in Christ and maketh manifest the savior of his knowledge by us in every place" (II Corinthians 2:14).

SING: Nothing But the Blood of Jesus

PRAY: Thank you, oh Lord, that all my sins are covered by the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. Teach me now to walk in victory for His name's sake.

HOW DOES YOUR VOICE SOUND?

When the Lord controls your voice — how you speak becomes as important as what you say.

by Bess Antisdal

PATIENCE strung taut, my storm-filled voice flooded the atmosphere. "Put on the dresses I told you to in the first place!" Two frightened little girls scampered down the hall in prompt obedience.

Their fourth appearance in a different outfit had precipitated the verbal squall. Feeding and bathing a playful baby was assignment enough for a busy Sunday morning. Collecting loose thoughts for a Bible class was occupying a big corner of my mind besides. As I picked up a stray pajama top and one abandoned sock on the way to the kitchen, I mentally checked off the menu items. With missionaries coming for dinner, I wanted everything to be perfect.

As I returned to finish dressing David, my harsh order to the girls echoed in my ears. Excuses for being so busy didn't justify my wrath-edged voice. How could such a tempestuous voice ever reflect the love of the Savior? His words were used to calm the turbulent waters. Exhausted from all the church activities, social obligations and household duties, my very nerve fibers were worn thin. Just a little disobedient friction from the children had created enough spark to set off a series of highly explosive outbursts. Salty, stinging tears filled my eyes as I thought how miserably I was failing my Lord and my family as a mother.

"My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O Lord; in the morning will I direct my prayer unto thee, and will look up" (Ps. 5:3). His Word rebuked me. Like Martha, I had been so cumbered with much serving that I had failed to sit first at Jesus' feet. As the Lord continued to search my heart, His Word burned deeply, "I will take heed to my ways, that I sin not with my tongue; I will keep my mouth with a bridle" (Ps. 39:1). With deep conviction of my utter helplessness to control my tongue, for "the tongue can no man tame" (Jas. 3:8), I asked the Lord to control it for me.

Often, we as believing parents do not recognize the subtlety of Satan in using our tongue as his instrument. "The tongue is set on fire itself by hell" we read in James 3:6 (American Translation). So basically, this problem of being impatient with our children is a spiritual one.

In wrestling with this foe, we must realize that "the battle is not ours," but the Lord's! (II Chron. 20:15). And above all we are to take the shield of faith, and simply believe that God will give us the victory over this skirmish for the tongue. Without our spiritual gymnastics from the Word of God every day, however, we cannot keep in condition. Soap-box operas and dime novels will never replenish spiritual vitamin deficiency and chronic anemia.

Only the meat of God's Word can keep us fit for battle.

Parents have told me, "My children won't mind me unless I shout at them." When this is the usual procedure, in my opinion something is drastically wrong . . . and it may not be with the youngsters.

The Word tells us, "My grace is sufficient for every need" (II Cor. 12:9). If we doubt this, we are doubting God. "God is not a man that He should lie" (Num. 23:19). We took God at His word for salvation. "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved" (Acts 16:31). Now we must believe Him for the victory He is able to give in this matter of the tongue. "The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in Him, and I am helped" (Ps. 8:7a).

I have discovered a simple secret: I ask the Lord for wisdom in dealing with each problem as it comes.

A wild scurry of unkind words between our two girls may take place at the dinner table when they are tired.

"Would you talk like that to Jesus?" I asked them one day.

Shamefacedly, they answered, "No." Taking advantage of the situation, I added, "Then if we can't say it to Jesus, let's don't say it at all. The Savior can help you to be kind one to another."

To remind us that Jesus hears every-

thing we say, we put an extra chair at the table for Him. The extra chair helps all of us to remember His presence.

Hiding God's word in our hearts is a real aid to strengthening us when we need it most. "Set a watch, O Lord, before my mouth. Keep the door of my lips" (Ps. 141:3). "Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer (Ps. 19:14). Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile" (Ps. 34:13). "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee, because he trusteth in thee" (Is. 26:3). I find real strength by just repeating such verses over and over when I'm tempted to raise my voice.

Because we ask the Lord to help us gain the mastery of the tongue, we may expect testings. But we must also remember that "tribulation worketh patience; and patience experience; and experience, hope" (Rom. 5:3,4). If we suffer a temporary defeat, and lose momentary control, we do not give up. "Why art thou cast down, O my soul? And why art thou disquieted within me? Hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise Him, who is the health of my countenance, and my God (Ps. 42:11). Seek the Lord's forgiveness, and ask Him for new strength. You shall yet praise Him for the victory He *will* give you.

Besides the spiritual battle, there is the definite angle of the physical, and we must recognize it as such. I have discovered that physically I must review my daily program if I am to have spiritual victory over the attitude of my heart and the tone of my voice.

(1) Take time for a regular daily rest. Refreshment of body is necessary.

(2) Weigh your activities and eliminate all unessential ones . . . in the church, social, and household realm.

(3) Fill your leisure time with the things that glorify Jesus Christ. Plan family activities and outings. Play with your children.

(4) Work on the problem of obedience from your youngsters. Try making a game of doing their chores. Mark a chart for points. Competition between children working for a reward will speed up a favorable response, too. Be sure that you aren't expecting too much for the age of your child. I know a home where the problem of picking up clothes was easily solved without yelling. For each article left out of place, the child had to go to bed 10 minutes earlier than the regular set time. One night the oldest girl had to go to bed a half hour earlier than the baby! Needless to say, this hasn't happened again.

(5) Anticipate strained moments. Eliminate the Sunday morning rush of polishing shoes and looking for socks

without holes. Prepare Saturday night by laying out the clothes and polishing the shoes. Plan ahead. Ordered lives reduce hectic confusion.

(6) And, finally, start the day with family devotions. (This is in addition to your own private worship.) Child

participation in the family altar is essential. Problems prayed over by the entire family are the ones most easily solved.

When both the parents and the children are praying, miracles can happen even in our homes. □

TAKE TIME

The quietness of God's creation can give us a fresh look at Him.

by Elizabeth Frank McCain

WE HAD PROMISED the children a picnic at Island Park before the end of our visit back to my home town. Now the visit was drawing to a close, and the picnic was one of many events we had not found time for.

In the hurried last-minute efforts to crowd in as much as possible, reminded reproachfully that "a promise is a promise," I made time for the picnic.

Island Park was to the children a so-far imagined place where there would be a river for wading, room to run, and a basket of chicken sandwiches.

To me, it was remembered as an oasis of beauty and quiet within a block of a busy business district. Two rivers came together there, and in the short space it took them to decide just how the union should be made, an island was formed. Green grass underfoot and stately trees overhead muffled the workday sounds only a moment's walk away.

We started out with the basket crammed with lunch, the morning paper, and a host of assorted and imagined needs. Still breathless and tense from the scurry of preparations, I found myself envying the endless energy of the children as they romped excitedly ahead one minute, trailed behind the next, chattered and peered into shop windows.

Finally we came to the ancient foot bridge which led to the park. It arched steeply over the swirling river, and the children ran from side to side, peering at the water below, speculating on climbing the iron framework to stand on top of the railing. Down the other side of the bridge's ramp and we were in the park.

The harmony of bird songs, whispering leaves and chuckling water worked its magic to drown out the discords of the world we had left. A long-gone encampment of Indians was memorialized on a bronze-plated boulder, and the unspoiled beauty of the spot had been so well preserved that it was not too difficult to portray for the children that the teepees and campfires were only just gone. These towering trees had sheltered the Indians, this same river, tumbling beside the path, had afforded them food, drink and transportation.

It was a moment before I realized that our five-year-old had come to press herself against me. Her hand

crept into mine and squeezed gently.

"Mommy," she finally said, and her voice was hardly more than a whisper, "Is God here?"

Moments later the mood passed and her feet twinkled down the path to catch up with the others.

How often I had questioned my ability to pass on to our children the beauty, majesty and reverence that were God, the intangible, unexplainable spirit of Him that would be to them a source of joy and love, comfort, gratitude and inspiration.

"If God made trees and flowers, the sun and the clouds, why didn't He make trucks and busses and airplanes?"

"If the church is God's house, why can't we run and play there?"

"Why don't we see God when we go to church?"

I had often been ashamed at the awkwardness and hesitancy with which I answered their questions. I had been ashamed of brushing them aside when no answer occurred to me.

Now it was a child who lifted my eyes, who showed me that God in His infinite wisdom had brought us here, to let His handiwork say what my fumbling words had failed to say. She needed not questions and answers, but trees and rivers and a moment for listening to bring her the knowledge that God is a presence in our midst, not a man in the sky.

Here, in this place of beauty and reverence, in a sudden season of quiet, He awaited discovery by the likes of us, who came fresh from a confusing, noisy and distressed world, with too little time to adjust one's thoughts—unless one was five years old.

Now, as I listened, He spoke to me. "To everything there is a season," the new song sang: a time for the ringing telephone, the inexorable clock, the tyranny of buttons to push and obligations to meet—and a time for a picnic with the children.

Suddenly the basket on my aching arm was an anachronism. I carried not only plastic cups and waxed-paper-wrapped sandwiches, Kool-Aid and Kleenex, but all the woes, worries and weariness of a season that belonged to another place, another time, blocks away, hours from now.

Listening still, I heard "Come quick, Mommy! I found a crawdad!" and I dropped the basket and ran to marvel. □

HOW IMPORTANT ARE INTERIOR DECORATIONS?

The presence of the Holy Spirit in your home is more important than the furniture.

by *LaVina Fisher*

ARE YOUR HOME and its furnishings keeping you from inviting in your prayer group, or holding that cottage meeting, or from entertaining your minister or a missionary?

They shouldn't be—and they don't have to.

I was an interior decorator for years and sold fabrics for \$37.50 per yard, and up. For those who could afford the tariff, I offered rug material costing upwards of \$60.00 per square yard. But even the most expensive interior, however warm and comfortable I could make it, became cold and uncomfortable if that were the character of the occupant of the house.

As a decorator I did not suggest or pretend that it wasn't good decorating if the customer didn't pay a fantastic price for furnishings. Decorators know that poor architecture can be covered with the right selection of color, the proper re-arrangement of furniture, the correct lighting. Yet, decorators also are aware that it is not the furnishings of a house that make it a home, but the atmosphere created by the people who live in it, regardless of the furnishings.

True warmth and hospitality must have been enjoyed by the three guests from the Lord, who stopped by Abraham's tent for a visit (Gen. 18:2). This was unlike the atmosphere that permeated the home of Lot and his wife, the socialites of Sodom, where

two of these same guests visited the next day (Gen. 19:1).

Abraham was a man of God, a man of simple tastes, who desired only a clean and comfortable existence. He could have led a life of sumptuous ease like his nephew, Lot, for he was a wealthy man (Gen. 13:2). But he neither needed nor required fine furnishings to strengthen his character or to win the acclaim and approval of his fellow-men. His view of the abundant life was defined in terms of giving, not receiving.

Abraham did not depend upon "things" to bring him peace and satisfaction, but upon his relationship to the Lord. This is clearly illustrated in his statement to Lot concerning the division of the land God had given them (Gen. 13:9).

When the angels of the Lord visited Abraham we note that he did not take visitors inside his tent (Gen. 18:16). Did he serve them outside because he was ashamed of the way his tent was furnished? No. Abraham acted as he did simply because the interior decoration of his tent had nothing to do with the hospitality he was extending to his three guests.

It was different when the two angels came to Lot's house (Gen. 19:1). There the impressive decorations, the objects of art and special appointments of the dinner table were paraded before them.

The judgment of the Lord on Sodom is known to all Christians. The sad story of Lot comes as a lesson to all who place too much emphasis upon material things. No doubt Lot became a man of high position in Sodom because he was known as a righteous man, but he was inclined to compromise and thus met his downfall. His beautiful home, his large herds of cattle, the social position he and his family held in the community was, in the end, not respected even by the men for whose sake these things had been built up.

The furnishings of the home lose their prominence as the personalities of the people within create the atmosphere that surrounds the home. The reaction of the three guests to the homes of Abraham and Lot was different because of the difference in the character of the two men. How their homes were decorated had little to do with it.

How important is interior decoration? Little—when compared to our relationship with the Lord. When His Holy Spirit fills us—then the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts—and homes. This sort of Christian home can be a joy and blessing to everyone, regardless of other furnishings. God grant we may open our homes and welcome all who enter, secure in the knowledge that the Spirit of God needs no adornment. □

Share Your Christmas

young people. More than 50% of Brazil's 70 million are not yet 21 years of age. The alert missionary sees all this. He is convinced that in this age of communication, literature is a must—and a priority. The past ten or twelve years have seen a very significant increase in both the production and distribution of Christian literature. More bookstores and mobile units are in operation; sizeable mass distribution campaigns of free tracts and gospels are being undertaken; translation, original writing and production are being greatly accelerated. Personnel is being set aside for the specific ministry of literature. One group in Japan has more than 50 persons engaged in literature. Another group has more than 225 totally engaged in several phases of literature evangelism. In varying degrees, most missions are getting more deeply involved in a printed-page ministry.

This impressive effort must be greatly improved. It can if God's people, with perception, insight and Holy Spirit conviction, are ready to cooperate with the missionary program by prayer and by gifts to make possible the onward thrust of literature penetration. Ω

Medical Missions
Open New Doors

by Ralph T. Davis
General Director
African Inland Mission

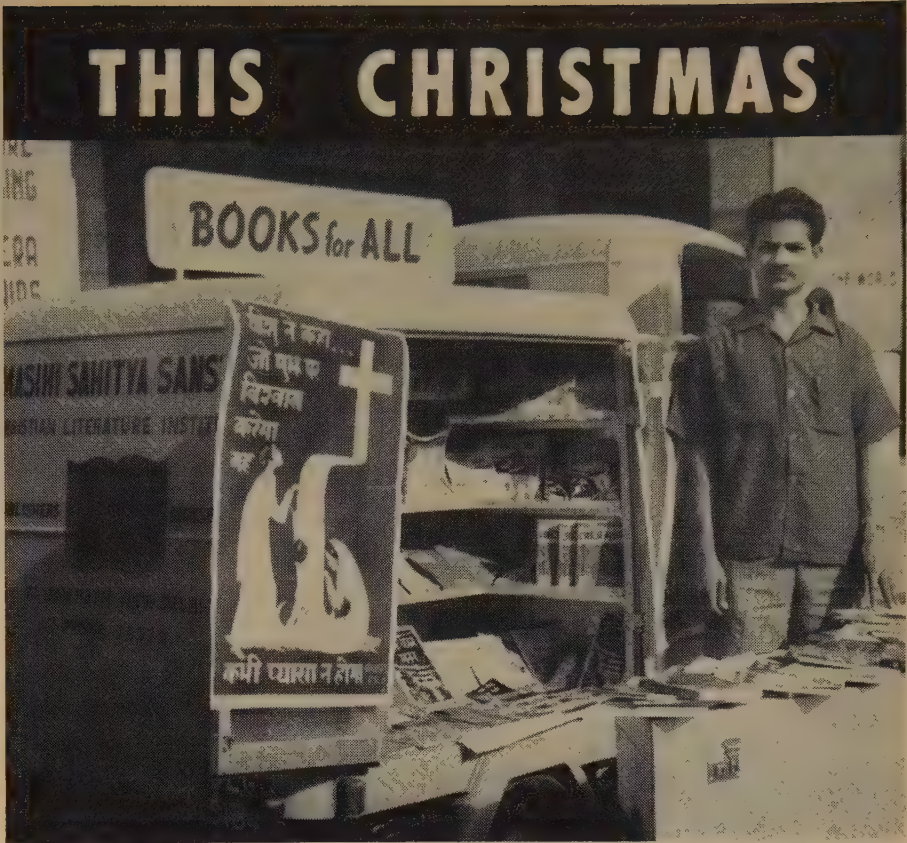


AIM photo

Medical aid is often a door for spiritual aid.

CHRISTIANS possess love for their fellow men. No wonder, then, that medical missionary work has always exercised a large place in evangelical missions. Patients in foreign lands who have bypassed other hospitals to enter mission hospitals frequently state that they come because it is there that they are loved.

Love forms a large part of the treatment given in mission medical work. With physical betterment, the patient receives emotional betterment, often



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Today in India, there is a greater demand for Christian literature than ever before. But funds are needed to publish more titles. Once a new book is printed, its sales will pay the cost of publishing other new Christian books. (Only \$300 will put 1,000 Christian books on the shelves of bookmobiles like the one pictured above.) Your investment multiplies many times. Won't you share your abundance at this Christmas time with Indian Christians working desperately hard to present the Gospel of Jesus Christ to their countrymen before the hordes of communistic Russia move in?

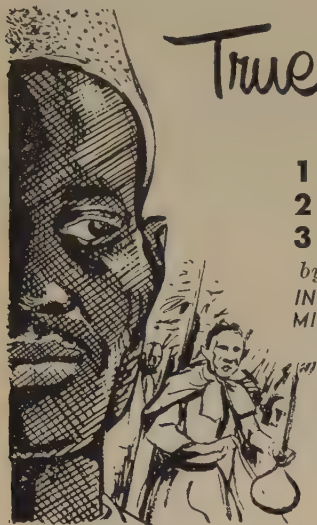
This month, your contribution can help start a new Christian book on its way.

REV. CARL J. TANIS, Director, Christian Life Missions
428 Howard Street, Wheaton, Ill.

Dear Mr. Tanis:
Yes, I want to share my Christmas this year by helping to get Christian literature on mission fields.

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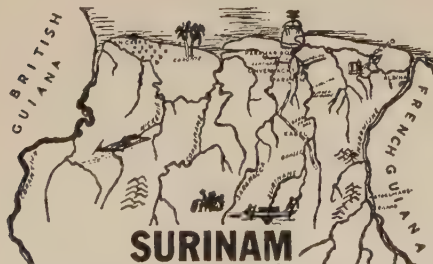
Remember in your giving the One whose birth we observe at Christmas. No sad stories. Just this simple invitation to share the burdens and blessings with your A.N.E.F. missionaries who are busy giving the Gospel story of Christmas all year to refugee children who need so much to hear and know. Please send your contribution now—or anytime.

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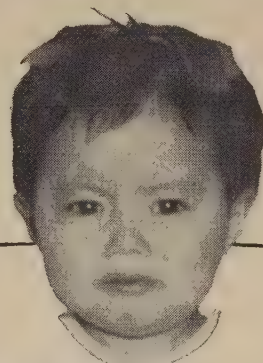
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Share Your Christmas

leading to salvation and a deepened Christian experience, due to the gracious care by devoted doctors and nurses—both mission and national. In fact, the medical missionary is as desirous to open the door of the heart to receive the Gospel as to do all he can for the welfare of the body.

Instances could be cited where large geographical areas have opened to missions because of the successful work of medical staffs. They hold in their hands the key to the hearts of government officialdom, as many men in authority come voluntarily and quickly to the hospitals for treatments.

One mission has just entered a new area that the missionaries have desired to penetrate for more than 50 years. In this tribe of more than 120,000, largely because of the work of a devoted doctor, there stands a new hospital today.

When ill, people often are ready for the first time to open their hearts to the message of the saving grace of our Lord.

Moreover, medical missionary activity usually is permitted to continue despite revolutionary uprising when most missionaries must evacuate. In the Congo, for example, many hospitals never closed during the emergency, even in some of the more critical areas. New national leaders offered protection to the medical personnel who labored so nobly.

To open a door, one needs the proper key. Medical missions is the key to effectively open many a door in foreign missions that would never open with another key, good as that key may be. Ω

Home Missions Often Neglected

by Robert Walker

Editor,
Christian Life Magazine

FROM THE Mexican migrants in the South West to the Indians on the reservations in the northern border States, an enormous program of home missions is quietly at work today throughout the United States.

Missions and mission workers are concerned about the Jewish people in the metropolitan centers, share croppers in the southern states, and down-and-outers on big city streets, foreign students on our university campuses and under-privileged persons in many walks of life who would normally have no opportunity to hear the good news of salvation through Jesus Christ.

Many of these organizations are unsung and virtually unknown. Yet their history often goes back to more than 100 years, as in the cases of the Ameri-

Share Your Christmas

can Tract Society and the American Sunday School Union.

In almost every State, these and many other home mission organizations preach the Gospel, care for the sick, feed the undernourished and try to keep teenagers "going straight." Some home mission work is sponsored by foreign mission societies who use it as a training ground for overseas work.

Too-often handled by single women alone, home mission work needs prayer for men. It also needs money, for many servants in these needy areas live without a set income.

Since the Lord's command was to go first to Jerusalem to preach the Gospel, let us not neglect the mission fields on our own doorsteps. Ω

General Fund Giving Can Be a Blessing

by **Vernon Mortenson**
General Director,
The Evangelical Alliance Mission

GENERAL FUND giving can be a blessing—if you have vision.

Granted, it is rewarding to channel your mission contributions to a definite project. No one suggests that you stop. You may, by contributing to a radio broadcast that brings the gospel behind the Iron Curtain, find it easier to pray that its message will reach hearts. Perhaps by helping to sponsor a missionary evangelist in a crowded Oriental city; that city's needs take on more meaning. Not only the missionary, but the people of the city go down on your prayer list.

However, every mission society that channels designated contributions to specific projects also must have support for its general fund.

There are emergencies to meet on the field. Designated support for a project may not be sufficient; yet because the ministry is strategic it must be maintained.

How are the costs of issuing receipts, answering letters, keeping accounts, providing speakers, publishing a missionary magazine, cared for? Here, again the general fund must make provision.

Contrary to the opinion of some, most mission organizations operate on a very low overhead. Their employees make financial sacrifices when they enter this type of missionary service. Most mission organizations are aware of the value of labor-saving equipment and procedures.

One mission society had a rule that nothing would be spent in the homeland. Every penny would be sent to

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Dr. Basil Miller
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CHRISTMAS THE FEAST OF GIVING

Needy ones behind the Iron Curtain prayerfully and hopefully look to The Scott Mission for relief to help them through the severe winter.

A former banker now receiving relief from the Scott Mission writes: "Dear Dr. Zeidman—My wife and I praise God and thank you for the wonderful help you extend to us. The 30 dollars we received we spent on footwear to prepare ourselves for the severe winter weather. We live in one room on 14 dollars a month pension we receive. We wash our own underwear, for we are ashamed to send the patched-up shirts to the laundry. We need your help for winter fuel and clothing. We have no charitable institutions here as we had before the war so I must turn to you dear sir, whose kindness is known throughout Europe. Praying you will have mercy upon us, yours gratefully, A.B."

Do not forget those who uphold the Light in the midst of darkness.

Will you dear reader share your joy, your abundance and your blessings with those less fortunates behind the Iron Curtain.

"... Send portions unto them for whom nothing is prepared: for this day is holy unto our Lord. Neh. 8:10."

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the field and all administrative work would be done by volunteer workers. Sounds wonderful, doesn't it? That mission languished and almost died. For 23 years no new missionary was sent out. "There is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty" (Prov. 11:24b.)

If all who designate their contributions to the support of specific projects would add a portion for the general fund, the difference would be of strategic value and great blessing, entirely out of proportion to that extra bit. In fact, it could mean the difference between going forward in the work or holding back. Ω

Christian Orphanages Move Many Hearts

by Everett Swanson

The Everett Swanson Evangelistic Association

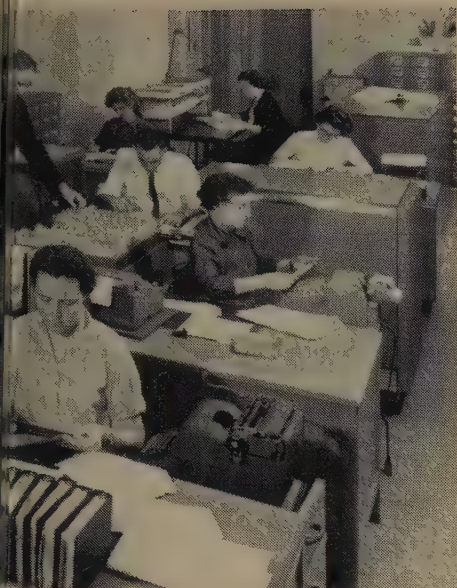


Swanson Photo

Korean orphans need social and spiritual help.

A COLLEGE STUDENT and his wife saving \$2 a week to support

CHRISTIAN LIFE



is directed at Team's international headquarters.

an orphan . . . a bus driver with six children of his own . . . a class of third grade children . . . a young couple who lost their own baby . . . a widow living in an old people's home . . . a U. S. Army sergeant—what causes these people in so many walks of life to be concerned about orphans?

There is nothing so pathetic as a little child without a home or parents. Who will see that he has a balanced diet, that he gets to bed on time, or that he does his homework?

More than that, who will tell him of Christ?

Most likely he has no food, no bed and cannot attend school. If he has any ideas concerning God, they are probably strange ones. These are the thoughts that cross the mind of a Christian as he looks at a picture of a ragged orphan, and this explains why people want to help care for such orphans.

Our organization alone has at this writing 108 Christian Orphanages in Korea, caring for more than 10,000 orphans. There are other fine organizations. Some with more, others less. Some of the orphans are abandoned babies, many of whom are former wandering beggars, and all of whom were afflicted by war and poverty. It is the privilege and responsibility of Christians to care for the needs of these children.

We are plainly told this in James 1:27. Thus, we are not only concerned about providing food, clothing and shelter for these children, but we are also providing the tuition for their schooling; and, most important of all, we are training them to know and to love our Lord Jesus Christ.

We must not think of orphanage work as purely social ministry. These children without parents need Christ. How shall they hear of Him and come



SPONSOR A KOREAN ORPHAN Thousands Homeless and Hungry

Nothing will give one of these dear children such overflowing joy as the news that YOU have become his or her sponsor. They long for a loving "Daddy and Mommie" or "Brother or Sister"—someone who cares. For only \$8 a month—just 26 pennies a day—you can bring a needy, desolate child Christian love and care, food, clothing and shelter, and school tuition charged for in Korea. Ask a friend to be a co-sponsor or interest your Sunday School class or other organization groups. Choose your own orphan from among the above.



You Can Save Victims of Tragedy

No. U-1 above is Kang Soon Hee, a very attractive child of gentle nature and good health. Her father was killed by Communist bandits. Her mother disappeared shortly after and has not been heard from since. The village Chief cared for her for a short time and then brought her to Love Nurture Orphanage. In her case history was found a letter she may have written reading in part, "I thank God for this Home where I can learn about Jesus. Please pray for me that I may grow up to be a good servant of the Lord."

No. U-6 above is Han Song Chul. This dear child was born on Christmas Day 1957. After his father died, his mother because of extreme poverty abandoned him and disappeared. A neighbor cared for him a short time and then had to bring him to our New Life Orphanage. His first name is Song (surnames come first in Korea). How appropriate for Christmas!

You will be glad to know that the Lord is blessing this work with increase and sponsors say that they, too, are being blessed. Also they are being THRILLED by the personal contact with the orphan they select. Many new sponsors are desperately needed. You will get Orphanage picture and history, also life story, picture and address of the orphan you select. You can write and send parcels as you wish. Replies are prompt and in English.

Every day these children are taught the Bible, sing Christian songs and earnestly pray. They are led to receive Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour and attend Sunday School regularly. Grasp this God-given opportunity to help bring up a child as a Christian leader, sorely needed in Korea.

The ESEA is caring for over 10,000 orphans, children of lepers and war widows. Its work is known widely because its message has gone out month after month in various ways including publicity in this and numerous religious and secular magazines. It serves more than 12 million meals each year. Help us expand our 108 Homes. Each one is a Christian institution with Bible-believing Staff and Board members. Sponsors are needed to take more ragged and cold children into our Homes during Korea's bitter winter. Write or phone NOW!

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- ☐ I cannot "adopt" a child but want to help by giving \$.....
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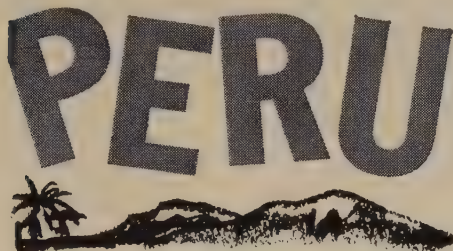
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■ We thank God for the strong cooperation of the national churches and the missionary agencies. Hold the campaign up in your prayers. And remember—continents cannot be evangelized without your help.

■ Write today for illustrated folder, "South America Faces Destiny Years."

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Share Your Christmas

to know Him except through Christian orphanages? For blessings unlimited, see what you can do through your own denominational boards or other Christian organizations, to have a share in this vital phase of missions. Ω

'Visit the Fatherless'

by Roy Wolfe
World Vision

GOD HAS DESIGNED the family unit as the ideal way to provide love, care and instruction for children. All around the world today, little ones have been uprooted from their homes—separated from their families as a result of war, poverty and disease. Many have never known the family unit as we know it in America. These are the fatherless.

Bewildered and alone, hungry and ill, they have many times been rescued by national Christians and missionaries who have gathered them together in Christian orphanages. There, workers have first met the orphans' physical needs, then ministered to them spiritually.

These same orphans have come to know about Christ's birthday and love to celebrate it at Christmas. They like to decorate a Christmas tree—not one as we know it, but often only a branch of a tree without a single leaf, for which they make a paper star and paper birds and ornaments. Around this tree are all the gifts, usually sent by people from America who love them and wanted to share with them at this time.

I shall never forget the thrill that came to me a few years ago in Korea while photographing orphanages supported by World Vision. It suddenly occurred to me that the orphanage where I stood might house the little boy that our family had taken to our hearts some time before.

"Do you have a Kim Boo Kee here?" I asked.

"Yes," they said—and several children ran to find him.

They appeared with a little boy, small for his eight years. There was no mistaking. This was Kim Boo Kee. I knew from the picture in my wallet!

"This is your father from America," they said to him. I put my hands on his shoulders and looked into his face. It was streaked with dust from his play—just like my boys in America when they play. Then suddenly, he broke from my grasp and ran around the yard, turning somersaults and show-

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Share Your Christmas

ing off, just like my boys at home would do.

"He ran real fast," I told the children later. "Everybody laughed and had a happy time. And when they gave him cookies, he bowed his head and thanked God."

As I left, I wondered how many times he had been hungry. I was thankful that he now had a home where people were kind to him. I was thankful for all other "parents" in America who were making another of these boys and girls their missionary project. Ω

Clothing Is Always Welcome

by William Dillon
Superintendent,
Sunshine Gospel Mission

IN RECENT YEARS, so much has been made of a so-called social gospel without any accompanying spiritual emphasis that many believers have shied away from their responsibility to minister to human needs.

Certainly, the spiritual is by far the most important as Matt. 6:33 shows, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God." But true Christianity has a balance of the temporal and spiritual. I think of Gal. 6:10: "As we (believers) have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith."

The three fruits of the Spirit having to do with the believers' relationship to his fellow men comes to mind: "patience, gentleness and goodness." The Holy Spirit, if allowed, will produce this fruit through the believer.

Rescue missions often have more opportunities for direct social service than most church groups and must be careful that this phase of the ministry does not become either perfunctory or primary. Like all Christians, they must keep in mind Col. 3:23; "Whatsoever you do, do it heartily as to the Lord and not unto men."

Part of social service is clothing distribution. These "clothing contacts" often have been used to open a conversation about Christ.

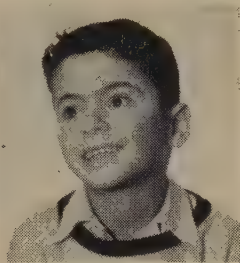
Almost all rescue missions welcome used clothing to pass on to needy skid-row partisans. However, used clothing also can be instrumental in making an initial contact with migrant workers, on Indian reservations, among the hill people of Kentucky, and in other needy areas. And then, of course, there is the proverbial "missionary barrel."

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The Home of Onesiphorus is a Faith Mission and is a member of the Interdenominational Foreign Missions Association, operating their own homes for refugee and orphan children, in Hong Kong, Beirut, and Ramallah, Jordan. To maintain its ministry, it is dependent wholly upon the free will gifts and offerings of God's people.



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Share Your Christmas

Much fun has been poked at the type of cast-offs all too often given by Christians. But it really is no laughing matter. Sometimes more harm than good has been done by donating clothing that is fit only for the rag barrel.

So take an inventory of your used clothing. Remember that Christ is watching as you sort it out and plan to give it away. Make sure that what you donate to the rescue mission, missionary or home mission society is not only "used" but "usable." Above all, remember to give it as unto the Lord. Ω

Starving Indians

Hail Mission Plane

by Charles Mellis

Executive Director
Missionary Aviation Fellowship



Jicaque Indian clutches food just received. MAF Photo

NOW—in a different way—the Lord has used the plane to open a new door.

Only a few unassimilated Indian tribes remain in Honduras today. They have withdrawn from contact with outsiders. This recently created difficulties for Dave Oltrogge of Wycliffe Bible Translators in his efforts to reach the Jicaques Indians.

After being away from his station on the edge of their territory for some time, MAF Pilot Paul Weir flew Oltrogge back. Both were surprised to find the Indians waiting for him. They soon learned the reason: the tribe was starving. Already nine had died.

Quickly arrangements were made with the CARE Agency in the capital, and Weir flew in nearly a ton of beans and rice to be dispensed to the Jicaques by the missionary linguist.

Honduras' leading newspaper carried an article with several pictures expressing appreciation for the service of evangelical missions and the airplane to the people of Honduras. Ω

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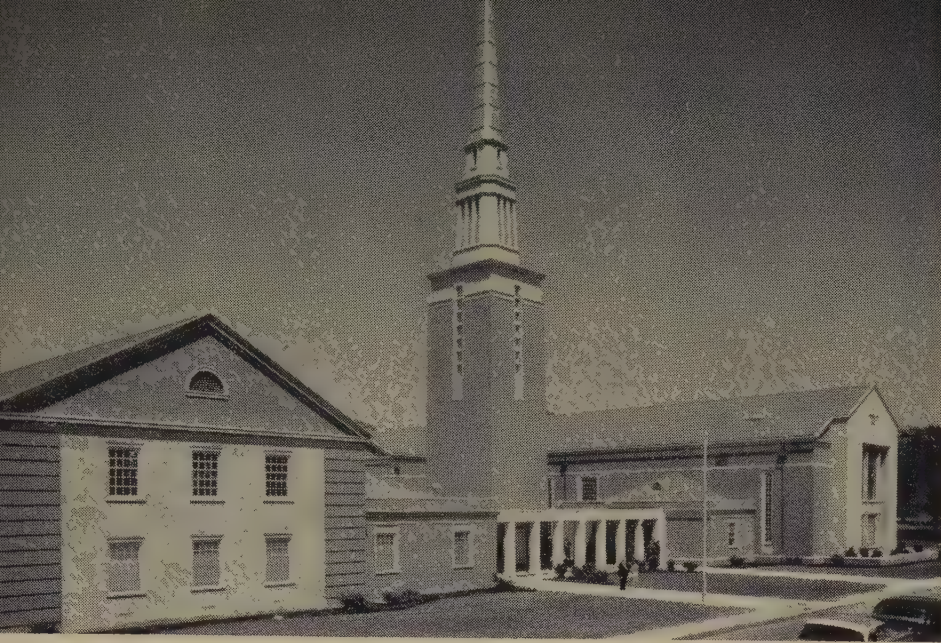
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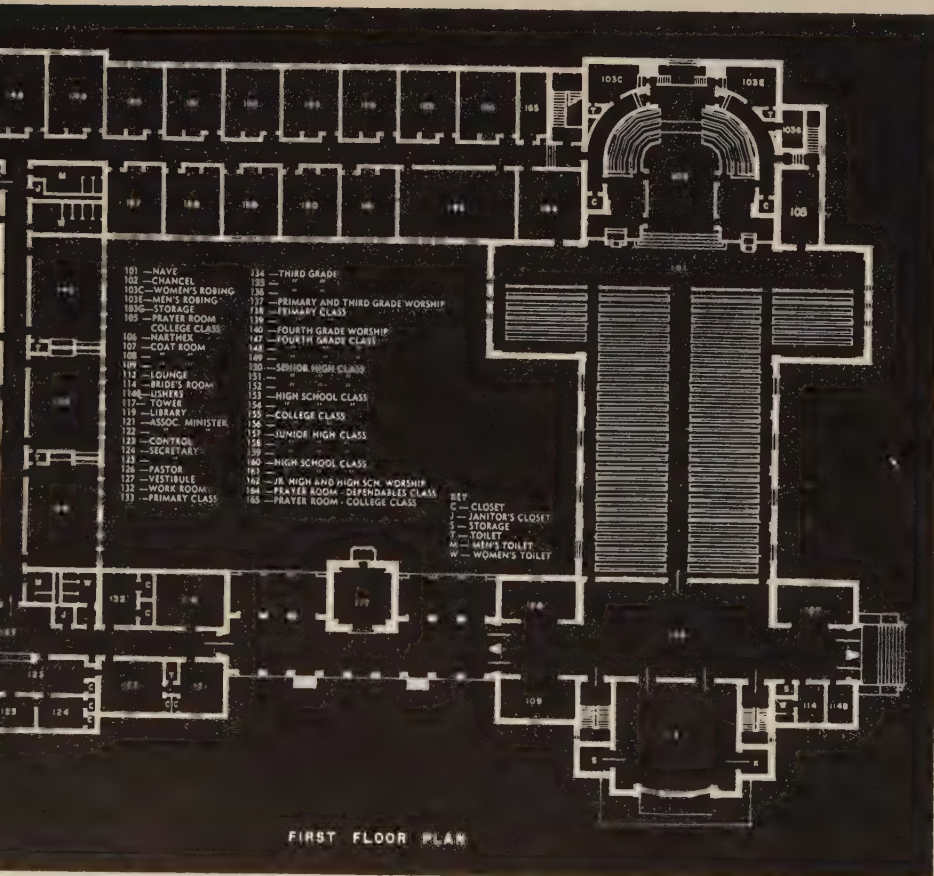


Here is the Colonnade entrance to sanctuary; and free-standing tower with spire and cross.

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of details of this
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the thorough plan-
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BUILDING & EQUIPMENT

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The exterior is brick and aluminum which, reportedly, requires "no repair or maintenance of any kind." Skillful landscaping accents the building by day. Smartly arranged floodlights bathe the tower and sanctuary with light at night.

Careful observation will delineate the form of a cross that outlines the sanctuary wing.

Altogether, to a stranger, first impressions bring a feeling of bigness, careful planning and dignity; that this is a building and plant to study internally for further enlightenment in the details of evangelical church design excellence.

As the building program progressed toward dedication, the Rev. Dr. W. Dale Oldham, pastor, impressed with the immensity of the endeavor stated, "This is the biggest task I have ever seen any Board of Trustees carry through in our movement."

Readers are encouraged to study the following notes on design and materials in relation to the ground floor and first floor plans shown here to grasp the thoughtfulness and investment that has gone into the building. Notes of a general nature are also included. A. Hensel Fink of Philadelphia was the designing architect.

First Floor

Entrance to Sanctuary—colonnade entrance with double doors from Fourth Street and College Drive; Tennessee marble steps.

Narthex—hard poplar wood with walnut trim; indirect lighting; Vermont slate floor; wall paper interior; used for overflow; large cloakrooms on either side of colonnade entrance and one inside north entrance; pay telephone near north entrance; ushers' room has intercom to pulpit; bride's room near north entrance with full-length mirror and restroom.

Lounge—for small receptions and doubles as classroom; kitchenette; storage; accommodates 75-100; indirect lighting; carpeting and draperies.

Ground Floor

Fourth Street Entrance—leads to kitchen, fellowship hall, parlor; paved to sidewalk for deliveries; storage room for outside maintenance equipment; kitchen entrance has room for milk and bread deliveries; entrance to boiler room.

Kitchen—stainless steel equipment; large disposals, large stoves, ranges, ovens, coffee makers; scullery with electric dishwasher; entrances for dish pick-up for cafeteria style; storage for dishes.

Fellowship Hall—seats 700 at tables; molded plaster pattern varies.

Stage—handle any size play; modern lighting; P.A. system; motion picture equipment here; storage of tables and chairs under stage.

Small Dining Room—mural wallpaper; for small group conferences or luncheons; seats up to 72 at tables.

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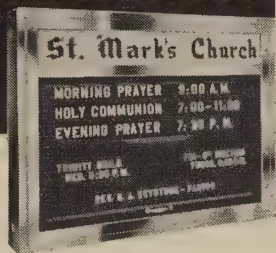


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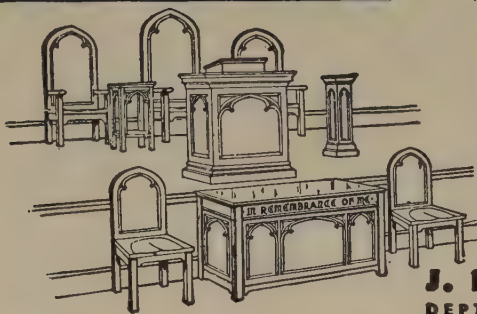
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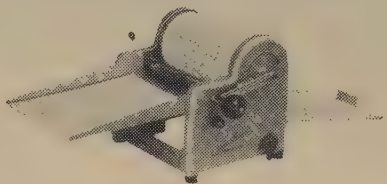
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ber off this room; two storage rooms.

Balcony—oak wood work; seats 200;
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to screen control room and antiphonal
organ screen; cat-walk in attic to serv-
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Control Room—lights, sound and tape
recording controls; intercom to lectern,
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Nave—28 rows of pews on each side
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tismal tank below stained glass window
—ceramic tiled dressing rooms to either
side plus restrooms; electrical control
room off ambulatory; ambulatory serv-
ice to entire chancel.

Lighting in Nave and Chancel—24 Ram-
busch downlights with 750-watt bulbs
(automatic dimmers managed from
control room); center line of fixtures in
ceiling is public address system; fluo-
rescent cove lighting on both sides
(lower cove has one row of tubes, up-
per cove has two rows—each row on
separate switch); 12 bracket lights on
fluted columns.

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transepts double as consultation and
classrooms.

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pipes have been installed under north
steps to melt ice and snow.

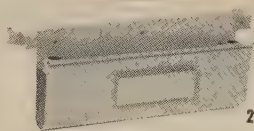
Administrative offices—slate floors in
main halls; hard poplar wood with
walnut finish; pastor's study carpeted,
P.A. outlet; control room has P.B.X.
switchboard and intercom.

Educational Wing—rubber tread on stair-
ways, asphalt tile floors, wooden hand-
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Q

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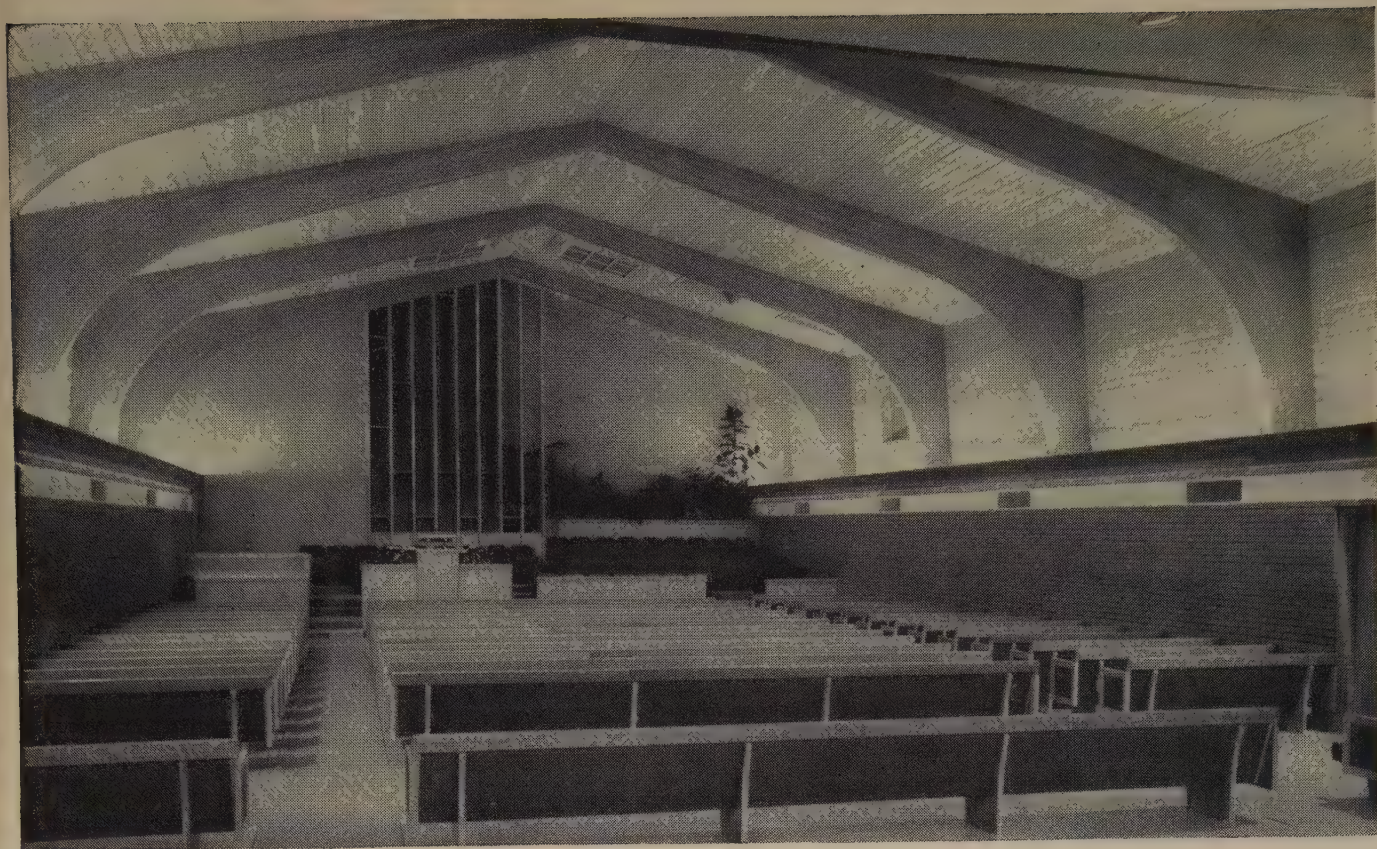
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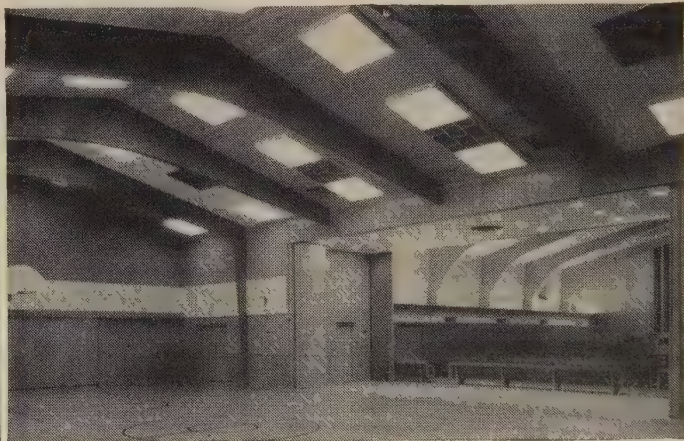
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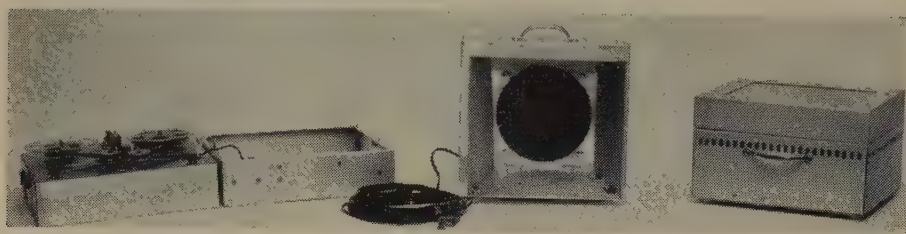
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Holladay LDS, 6th and 13th Wards, Salt Lake City, Utah. Chapel (main illustration) and Recreation Hall (right) constructed with Rilco laminated wood arches, beams and columns. Architects: Jackson and Sharp, A.I.A., Salt Lake City, Utah.





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Department Space Is Vital

Q We have heard a great deal of talk about the necessity of having department Sunday School rooms. However, we are limited in space and are considering the subdivision of large areas into proper facilities. Are department rooms sufficient, or would it be better to divide off this space into smaller classrooms with fewer department rooms?

A In speaking from what one Sunday school expert has said, if there is a choice between department rooms and classrooms, always select department rooms. I believe that a closely graded arrangement for departments is very important today. In the school-age bracket, departments never should carry more than a three-year's variance in one group. Among pre-school children, it is an easy thing to have several small classes in one room; in fact, there are advantages.

Some Sunday school experts say that this pertains also in the primary department.

However, it is possible to use larger rooms for a department in the worship exercises, then to divide by accordion doors or other methods into relatively sound-proof classrooms to study the lesson. I believe this is a practical approach-for-space-saving, cost-saving and time-saving.

These larger areas can be used for many more things in addition to departments and classes; for board meetings, library facilities, youth activities and many other things.

Q Our building is only a few years old. It is a modified gothic design. We are contemplating a new educational building coming off the side to form an "L"-shape plant. Original plans showed a gothic type of educational unit, a base-

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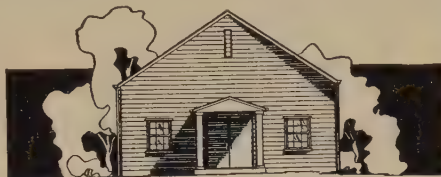
ment plus one and a half stories high with dormer windows both front and back on the top floor. Some of the folk feel this top floor would be a waste of space, that we should eliminate it entirely and make a one-story plus basement unit or add a "top floor with a flat deck over it.

Would this be feasible? Would it look right with a gothic building?

A In my humble opinion a flat top contemporary educational unit could probably be designed for your building that would look nice. At the same time it should be more functional and the per square foot cost less.

Q Our church is quite narrow—about 28 ft. wide. We believe it is out of proportion in length to the width—about 90 ft. long. We do have 16 ft. of space in front of the building for a much needed foyer. However, we are fearful, that to make this addition, it will make the building appear even more out of proportion. How about widening it some in front—would this help?

A I believe your suggestion for a solution is a good one. I have sketched an idea you may wish to consider.



Before: Width is out of proportion to length.



After: Suggested foyer idea aids appearance.

Q We recently purchased one and a half acres of ground in a lovely subdivision of a California city. Across the front of the property is an easement or right of way 60 feet wide. This belongs to a pipeline company. They have given us permission to use this space for parking facilities. We are considering blacktopping this area. What width is practical for a parking lot for a church? Is it proper to put the parking lot across the front of the church property?

A Sixty feet is almost the exact amount of space required for two rows of cars with a drive between them—presuming that the cars could enter from each side. In most cases, 18-19 feet is considered the length required for each car. The remaining 20-24 feet is required for a center driveway.

This, of course, will hide the front of the church from the road to a certain degree. Under the circumstances, with parking space needed and its availability free or with a nominal fee, this is something to praise God for. Actually there are advantages to parking in front of the church. With a good number of cars, this speaks well for the church.

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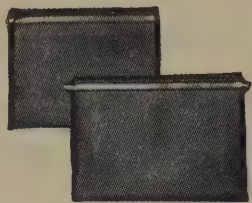
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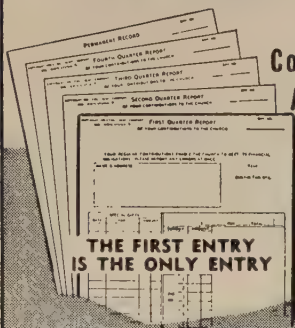
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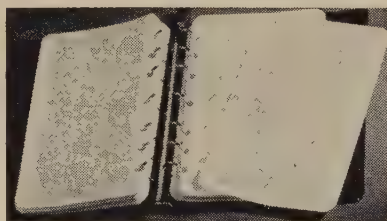
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P-1 Keeps choir robes neatly pressed

EXCITING news for choirs is word that a portable press-ironer by Hurley Products, Chicago, can help maintain their robes in sharply pressed condition. It weighs only 24 lbs., operates on AC and measures 27 x 21 x 7 in.

The sources indicate that it irons all fabrics including synthetics and all types of street apparel.



P-2 The Sculptura offers seating comfort

A REMARKABLE new chair of Fiberglass—Sculptura—by Clarin Mfg. Co., Chicago, features a sculptured separate seat and back. This to "assure perfect seating posture and comfort." Ribbing in the mid-section adds strength and aids appearance. The Sculptura is also available in vinyl and nylon in a variety of decorator combinations.

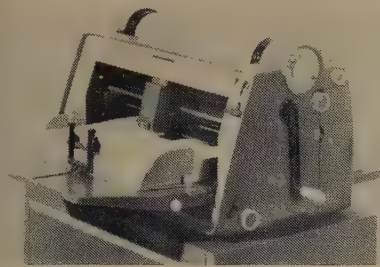


P-3 Sensing tape helps control equipment

MINNESOTA, Mining and Manufacturing Co., St. Paul, has introduced a new conductive sensing tape for use with recorders having electronic sensing controls—Scotch brand No. 51.

These are available in two widths— $\frac{7}{32}$ -inch for use on standard tapes and $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch for special applications.

Sensing tape helps operate sensing controls incorporated on a number of machines. The controls activate relays to start and stop recorders, reverse tape or operate auxiliary equipment.



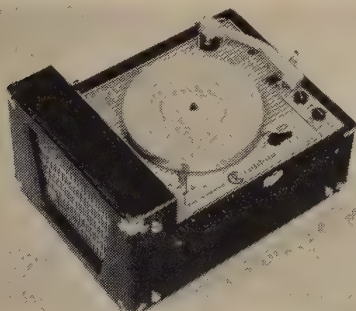
P-4 Wide stencil duplicator offered

SCHOOLS, national church headquarters and organizations will welcome word of the new stencil duplicator, model 380 by Gestetner Corp., Yonkers, N.Y. Notable feature of this machine is its wide duplicating area—16½ in. wide by 13½ in. in length. Still, it reportedly handles standard letter-size stock, even 3x5-in. post cards with ease. Automatic.



P-5 "All new" baptismal robe

THE JORDAN "all-new" baptismal robe by Oak Hall Cap & Gown, Roanoke, Va., features opaqueness even when wet; "is 100 per cent cotton twill"; provides "an inner halter, permanently attached to the women's robes"; provides "adjustable shorts." Robes for adults and boys and girls are available.



P-6 "Pneumatic sound" is featured here

A NEW HIGH fidelity, variable speed record player for educational use has been introduced by Rheem Califone Corp., Los Angeles. This features "pneumatic sound."

Called the Celebrity II, the maker claims that it is a ruggedly constructed, lightweight, portable unit adapted to the "rigors of hard, school use."

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Jan.22-28: LARRY LOVE, Billy Graham Evang. Assn.
Jan.29-Feb.4: CHARLES J. WOODBRIDGE, Word of Life Fellowship.
Feb.5-11: GREATER EUROPE MISSION, Robert Evans, Eur. Dir. and others.
Feb.12-18: HORACE L. FENTON, JR., Assoc. Gen. Dir. Latin-America Mission.
Feb.19-25: FRANCIS R. STEELE, Home Secretary, North Africa Mission.
Feb.26-Mar.4: RALPH F. STOLL, Pastor, Calvary Ind. Bap. Ch. Altoona, Pa.
Mar.5-11: HAROLD W. FIFE, Pastor, High Park Bap. Church, Toronto, Can.
Mar.12-18: MOODY BIBLE INSTITUTE, William E. Stewart, and others
Mar.19-25: PETER LETCHFORD, No. Amer. Dir., So. Africa Gen. Miss.
Mar.26-Apr.1: ROWAN PEARCE, Chairman, America's Keswick.
Apr.2-8: RICHARD WOODWARD, Community Church, Virginia Beach, Va.
Apr.9-15: FRANK C. TORREY, Pastor, Calvary Ind. Church, Lancaster, Pa.
Apr.16-22: VIRGIL R. NEWBRANDER, Far Eastern Gospel Crusade.
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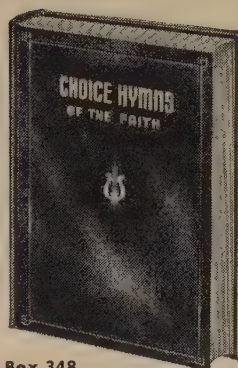
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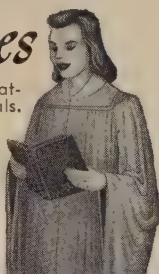
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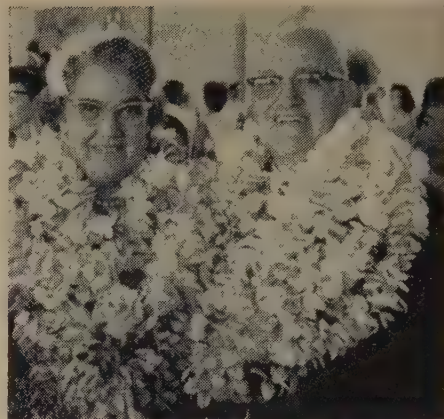
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Records Chime Out Peace, Good Will

AND A MERRY CHRISTMAS to you, too! May this be a *record* one for all. (I couldn't resist the pun!)

And here are some new releases to help you get into the true Christmas spirit.

The first, *Christmas Medley*, was recorded by the Back to the Bible Broadcast Choir and Quartet, and has such familiars as *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*, *Let Us Put Christ Back in Christmas*, *The Birthday of a King*, *No Room in the Inn*, and *Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne*. Singspiration, No. LP-166.

The second is *The Joy of Christmas*, with Warren Angell directing The Bison Glee Club—a remarkable vocal group from Oklahoma Baptist College that does a professional job with a relatively small student body from which to select talent. In this fine selection of Christmas music are *Deck the Hall*, *Christmas Means Thinking of Jesus*, *The Holly and the Ivy*, *Jingle Bells*, and a medley of *Joy to the World*, *Silent Night* and *White Christmas*. Word, No. W-3092-LP.

The radio staff of HCJB in Ecuador has released *Christmas at Quito*, with a variety of vocal and instrumental combinations: *Come to Bethlehem*, *O Come All Ye Faithful*, *Christmas Candle*, *Mary's Boy Child*, etc. Zondervan Victory, No. ZLP-546.

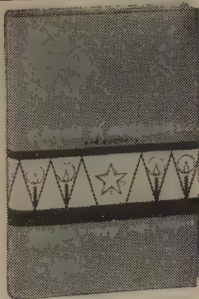
Last, but by no means least, is Bert Jones' album of organ, *Christmas Messages in Music*—some of the Christmas medleys this talented musician has played in the lobby of one of Pittsburgh's largest banks during the Christmas season. Selections include *The Night of Nights*, *The Town of Promise*, *The Angels' Herald*, *The Birthday of a King*, *Shepherds Watching*, *Stars Shine*, *Wise Men Journey*, and *The Babe in the Manger*. Interesting and well done. Zondervan Victory, No. ZLP-559.

Cum laude Graduates Produce Praiseworthy Record

I HAVE just auditioned a beautifully done release *In the Image of God*, by a husband and wife team: Dick and Zoma Edstrom.

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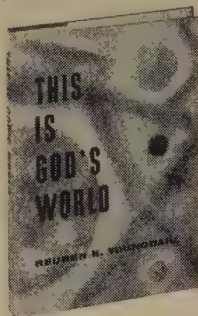
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August Van Ryn's latest devotional commentary of the Acts of the Apostles: *The Unfinished Work of Christ* (Loizeaux Brothers; 253 pages; \$3.50), considers the Spirit-filled life of the early church in a way that even teen-agers will easily understand. It will not excite the scholar, but all of God's children are not in this category.

Another book with equal appreciation of the Bible's authority is Charles F. Pfeiffer's Old Testament volume entitled *The Patriarchal Age* (Baker; 128 pages; \$2.95). Beginning with the patriarchal organization the author spreads before his readers a mass of carefully defined and compiled data dealing with the cities, times, religions, daily lives, and institutions of these peoples. Here's a dictionary of information woven into the fabric of this portion of Old Testament history. Highly recommended for Sunday school teachers, Bible teachers and pastors.

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Herein Is Love; by Reuel L. Howe; Judson; 116 pp; \$3., cloth; \$1.50, paper.

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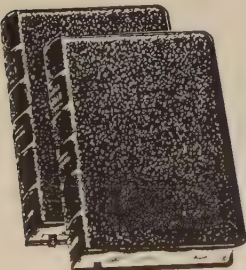
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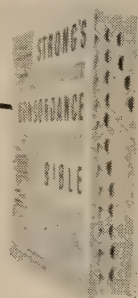
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Howe, whose ordination was made by the Protestant Episcopal Church, is currently director of the Institute for Advanced Pastoral Studies in Bloomfield, Mich.—a post-ordination training center for ministers of various denominations who have been in the ministry for at least three years. (JH)

Practical Leadership

COUNSELING FOR CHURCH LEADERS; by John W. Drakeford; Broadman; 150 pages; \$2.95.

Sunday school teachers, superintendents, youth leaders and other laymen have excellent opportunities to counsel those who have problems. These are opportunities, says J. W. Drakeford, for service to God. He points out that David, Paul and others mentioned in the Bible effectively counseled those with problems. Today many people naturally turn to the church for help. And many turn to laymen.

In this book he offers practical advice and counseling helps to lay leaders.

This book will not give all the help needed for effective counseling. It does give the scriptural basis for lay counseling, describe modern counseling techniques, cite numerous how-to-do-it examples, list additional sources of helps—and define limits for lay counseling. But one thing is omitted: that is the mention of the need for dependence upon the Holy Spirit for guidance. This, too, is the lay leader's responsibility. (AG)

Where Is the Power?

THE WILL OF GOD, YOUR SANCTIFICATION, by T. A. Hegre; Bethany Fellowship Inc., 110 pages, \$1.50.

What Christian is there who won't admit deep down inside that somehow he or she is not experiencing the fulness of all that God has intended?

All born-again Christians have been delivered from the penalty of sin, author Hegre, president of Bethany Fellowship, points out in this very helpful book. But not many Christians experience the reality of deliverance from the power of sin and the joy of living a holy and fruitful Christian life.

This book is simply written so laymen can understand it. After reading it you will search your own heart to see if the victory and spiritual power God has already provided is not lacking in your own life. (PC)

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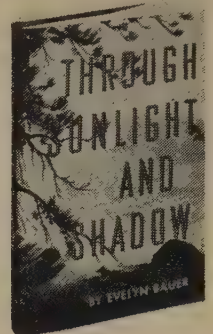
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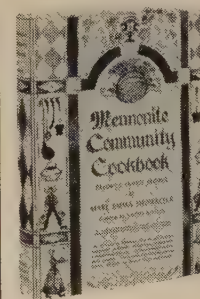
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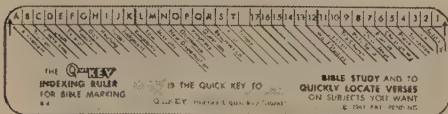
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SUNDAY SCHOOL

ALL AMERICAN CITY
HAILS SS PARADE

Award-winning city turns the spotlight
of publicity to teaching of the Bible.

by Jack Bradford

THE CITIZENS of Fargo, N. D., are proud of their city. They have good reason to be. In 1959 more than 100 cities entered the All-America City Contest (sponsored by the National Municipal League and *Look Magazine*) . . . and out of 22 finalists, Fargo is one of 11 All-America Cities chosen for this much sought-after All-America City Award.

Fargo achieved another claim to fame recently as one of her native sons, Roger Maris of the New York Yankees, made more headlines than any other athlete in recent years, slamming out 61 home runs in a single season.

But noteworthy as these honors might be, they are forced to take second place in relation to what happened in Fargo recently. A Sunday school convention came to town. This in itself may not be too unusual, but when you realize what the local Sunday school boosters did to publicize it, you will see what I mean.

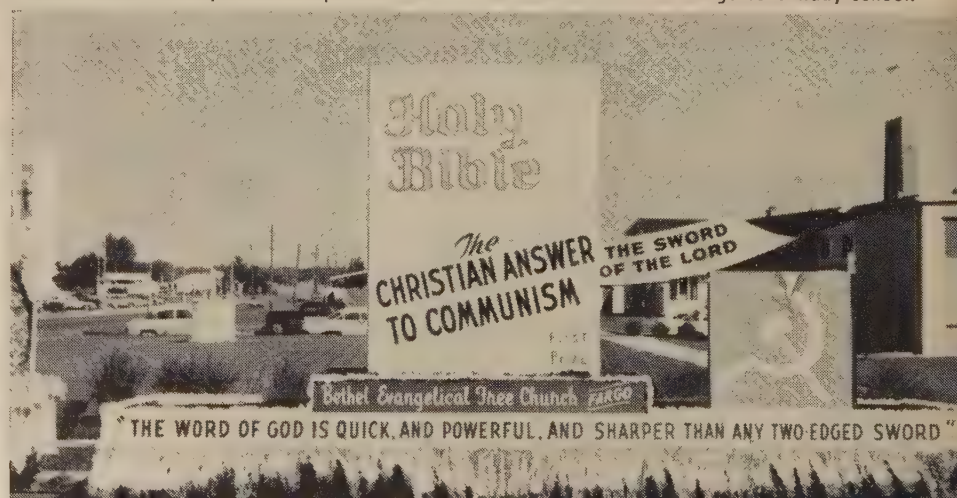
Fargo churches and the neighboring community of Moorhead, Minn., banded together to stage one of the most impressive Sunday school parades seen in the central states in many years. It abolished once and for all, any thoughts I had about folks in the heartland of our great country not being able to get enthusiastic about the Sunday school.

The Rev. Stanley T. Nelson, pastor of the Bethel Evangelical Free Church, and chairman of the Eastern Division of the N. D. Evangelical Sunday School Association, summed it up well: "We realized that it would take more than a few handbills to publicize our convention. With our sights on reaching the whole community with the Sunday school message, we determined to spare no effort in accomplishing our goal."

No less than 42 individual units made up the parade. The 14 beautiful floats by churches and related organizations would have been a credit to the Rose Bowl parade. Ten cars featured the Sunday school departments—one for every department. A transition from old relics to new models pointed out the progression in a Sunday school for every age. A Model T Coupe represented the Nursery Department with the caption "Early Spiritual Nurture." From the Model T touring car they worked their way up through Model A's and other ancient models to a 1961 Cadillac with large letters decorating its sleek lines saying "Let's Keep Pace in the Age of Space."

William L. Guy, Governor of North Dakota, gave the kick-off speech on the steps of the Civic Auditorium just before the parade moved through the

Fourteen floats were part of the parade which turned the attention of Fargo to Sunday school.



streets of Fargo and the neighboring town of Moorhead. Governor and Mrs. Guy rode in the parade in a horse-drawn carriage, one of several similar ancient vehicles in the line-up. Also in the parade were Mayor I. T. Stenerson of Moorhead and Mayor Lashkowitz of Fargo.

Leading the parade was a little girl on a Shetland Pony with the words, "A Little Child Shall Lead Them" written on each side. Following flagmen who carried the Christian flag and the American flag came the Central High band of Fargo, playing spirited marches. Further down the line was the Moorhead High band, keeping their part of the parade stepping lively. An old Model A truck asked the question, "Is Your Sunday School Up To Date?" A milk wagon admonished the crowd to "Desire the Sincere Milk of the Word." Two children on Shetland Ponies said "We Want Better Sunday Schools."

Prize winners in float competition were Bethel Evangelical Free Church, Fargo; Grace Baptist Church, West Fargo, second; and Calvary Baptist Church, third. Honorable mention went to entries from the Fargo-Moorhead Youth for Christ organization and the Child Evangelism Fellowship. The Bethel Free Church float (pictured) showed the Holy Bible as the Christian answer to communism. The "Sword of the Lord" is shown cutting the hammer and sickle to pieces. The second winner took as its theme "From Cross to Class" and featured a teacher with a group of children in a classroom situation. "Our Goal-Kids for Christ" was third winner, with three fellows dressed in football uniforms to provide atmosphere. A football was suspended in the air as if it had just been kicked for a field goal.

Community interest was high throughout the undertaking. Upon request Fairmont Foods donated two floats previously used in two centennial celebrations, spending hundreds of dollars to restore their original beauty. These floats represented the National Sunday School Association and the North Dakota Evangelical Sunday School Association. Northern Pacific Railway donated garage space to house the floats. Grosz Studio of Moorhead and Pierce Printing and Epko Film Companies in Fargo donated first, second and third prizes, consisting of a large beaded film screen, a spirit duplicator, and a classroom filmstrip projector. Mr. David Peet of Comstock, Minn. offered his fleet of antique cars for the event.

It was estimated that over 7,000 people personally viewed the parade, while thousands of others all over North Dakota and Western Minnesota viewed it on television. Both newspapers gave the event complete cover-

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A. W. Tozer is editor of THE ALLIANCE WITNESS, official magazine of The Christian and Missionary Alliance; Pastor, Evangelist and Bible Conference Speaker.

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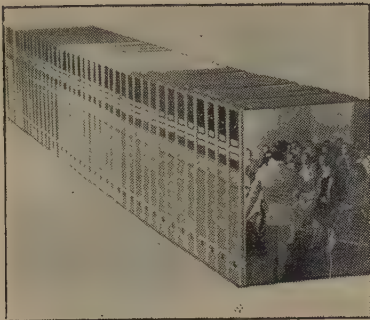
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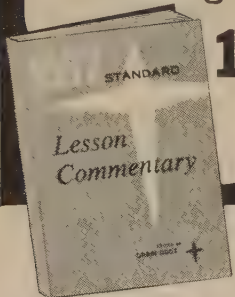
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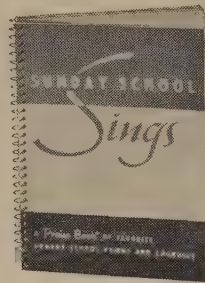
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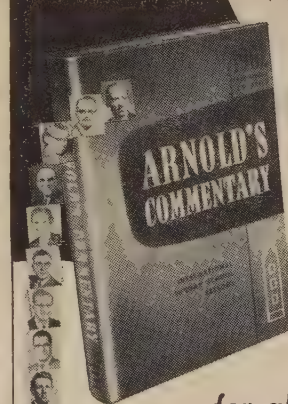
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Sunday School

age—which helped even more to spread the news of Sunday school.

The convention with the theme, "The Unchanging Word," was a great success. Registrations totaled almost 250, and more than 225 attended the great banquet rally on the closing night. The Rev. Chet Larson, national Sunday school secretary of the Evangelical Free Church gave a stirring message on "The Sunday School in the Space Age." Completing the team for the two day convention was Dr. Herbert Hazzard, Youth and Sunday School Secretary for the Minnesota Baptist Convention, and myself. All the financial obligations were met (which included more than \$350 spent for signs alone) with a little extra to begin underwriting next year's convention.

But these aggressive-minded pastors and people are not content with what happened this year. They are already laying plans for a greater convention next year. At the business meeting during the convention a unanimous vote was given to reserve the civic auditorium of Fargo for 1962.

Is it really sensible to get so excited over the Sunday school? I think Nelson expressed the feeling of evangelical Christians of Fargo when he said in one of the mailing pieces that went to more than 500 Sunday school boosters in the area, "The Christian Answer to Communism Is Christ! The message of the Bible is Christ. The purpose and ministry of the Sunday school is to present Christ to the hearts of boys and girls, young people, and adults; also to teach and train for service, and to mold and hold for Christ. Each generation has a God-given responsibility to communicate God's message to the one following. 'That the generation to come might know' (Ps. 78:6)."

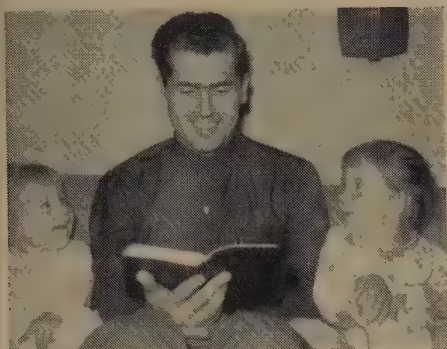
In the words of one of the local citizens, "Fargo at last, is on the move . . . going ahead . . . beginning to fulfill its true potential as one of America's truly outstanding cities. We have not only won the All-America Award . . . More important than that is the fact that each of us has captured the All-America spirit."

Whether the last statement is true I cannot say. But I know from firsthand experience that the Christians of Fargo, N. D., have caught the "all-America Sunday school spirit"—by showing all America that no undertaking is too big, no obstacles unsurmountable, when God is in it.

So we say congratulations to the Rev. Stanley Nelson and to all the capable pastors and churches who worked with him to make "the most important business convention (God's business) to come to Fargo this year" a great success.

Ω

Sunday Schools on Review



Bradford reads to daughters Betty and Carol.

New Sunday School Columnist

Last month we announced with deep regret the sudden home-going of Christian Life's much loved Sunday school columnist, Norman Townsend. . . . This month we introduce to you his successor, Jack Bradford. As a former pastor and now Sunday School Specialist for Scripture Press, we are confident that Bradford's reports will bring great help and genuine inspiration to all Sunday school workers. Watch for this column each month. —The Editors.

ONE OF THE BEST known and loved Sunday school supporters in all of New England and the eastern seaboard, Norman S. Townsend, is with the Lord. The Sunday school movement has lost one of its truly great soldiers.

It was my special joy and privilege to be associated with "Norm," as we affectionately called him, in the work of the Sunday school for almost four years. A greater and more gracious heart, I have never known. My life was enriched a hundredfold by his.

In every generation God sends a few truly great men across the path of history. Norman Townsend was one of those men. After doing a tremendous work for the Lord in a pastoral and Sunday school ministry in Quidnessett Baptist Church, North Kingstown, R. I., Norm was led into a fulltime Sunday school ministry on a national scale. How richly God blessed that scale—and the ministry as well. He gave himself completely to the work. (Norm once said he was away from home 264 days out of the year in the work.)

Many pastors and Sunday school workers knew personally Norm's ceaseless burden that God's Word be taught effectively throughout the land. His zeal is a reminder to us that the work of helping boys and girls, men and women, to comprehend the Gospel is not yet finished.

In one of Norm's last columns he wrote, "How much of the future is left for us, no one knows, for 'the night cometh when no man can work.'" His prayer was "for the

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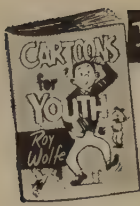
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fulness of the presence and power of the Holy Spirit." It can be so—it must be so—in our lives if God's Word to man is to be proclaimed to our generation.

TEACHERS, are you looking for a way to inject stimulating variety into your Sunday school class? Consider a field trip. It's work—but it's worth it as Mr. Ewald Ebel of the First Baptist Church, Jamestown, N. D., will tell you. He never misses an opportunity to drive home a spiritual truth to his 18 lively Junior boys and girls through a timely field trip.

Recently they were studying the missionary journeys of Paul. The class noted particularly how Paul testified to the deputy, or governor, in Paphos on the Island of Cyprus. Ebel immediately arranged an interview with no less than the governor of North Dakota, William L. Guy. Later, when they came to the incident of Paul and Silas in prison, plans were made to visit the State Prison at Bismarck. Though prison conditions have improved considerably since Paul's day, Ebel reports, "It gave the students a feeling of what a prison is really like." Thank the Lord for a Sunday school teacher who goes the extra mile to give his pupils vital first-hand experiences.

WE COULD NOT get through the column this month without sharing some ideas with you for your Christmas activities. The Rev. Allan H. Brown, pastor of the East Side United Presbyterian Church, Gary, Ind., is one of those special servants of God who is not content with the usual. He constantly seeks new ways to communicate the message of Christ to his people and community.

One which he uses effectively is a candlelight Christmas service from 11 to midnight, when his congregation fills the church to capacity. A spirit of devotion and love for Christ is sensed in the gathering.

Good choral music is supplied by the church choirs, and songs are projected onto a large screen for a community-type sing, so that faces are not buried in the hymnals. Scripture reading tells the story of the birth of our Lord. The sermon is very brief and deeply personal.

I asked Brown if he had any timely suggestions for the New Year's Eve Watch Night Service. It wasn't long before I had a wealth of ideas. "There is no one plan to meet each local situation," he cautions. "Every pastor must know his people well enough to know what will attract them."

A Watch Night Missionary Program might give the evening a nice change of pace. Ask missionaries to prepare tapes with pictures concerning their work. (And every missionary supported by the church make every effort to make the program complete.) If tapes are not available letters may be read by different people in the church. Several voices will add variety and interest. Climax the program by a message from a missionary on furlough. And close the evening with prayer for the home base and its outreach in the foreign fields.

. . . May you, this Christmas season, be willing to receive the gifts God has for you—as never before.

Audio Visuals



● ALMA GILLEO, audio visuals reviewer, spotted new aids for Christian education workers at the National Sunday School Association where this photo was taken in October.

The Problem of Christmas

SOON YOU AND I will be wrestling with the inevitable problem of trying to fit too many activities into too little time at the Christmas season. As teachers and church workers we will participate in many church activities, as well as personal and family projects—all of them good.

And if we are not careful we'll become so rushed and weary we shall lose sight of the purpose of these activities—to honor Christ, God's gift to us.

I was reminded of this recently as I viewed *Teenage Christmas* (Family Films). A group of teen-agers became so involved in a project to help others see the real meaning of Christmas that they almost forgot the purpose themselves. It is a mad rush for the young people as they work on the project, go caroling and try to get their own shopping done and cards addressed.

Temper, tension, irritability, impatience and misunderstanding almost take the place of Christmas joy. But the teen-agers learn as they realize the need to take time to tell and show others the real meaning of Christmas.

Here's a half-hour film which can help you and your teen-agers avoid the harried activities and enjoy the true spirit of Christmas. Show it to families early this month to set the pace for your own church activities. It would be excellent as an introduction to a service project.

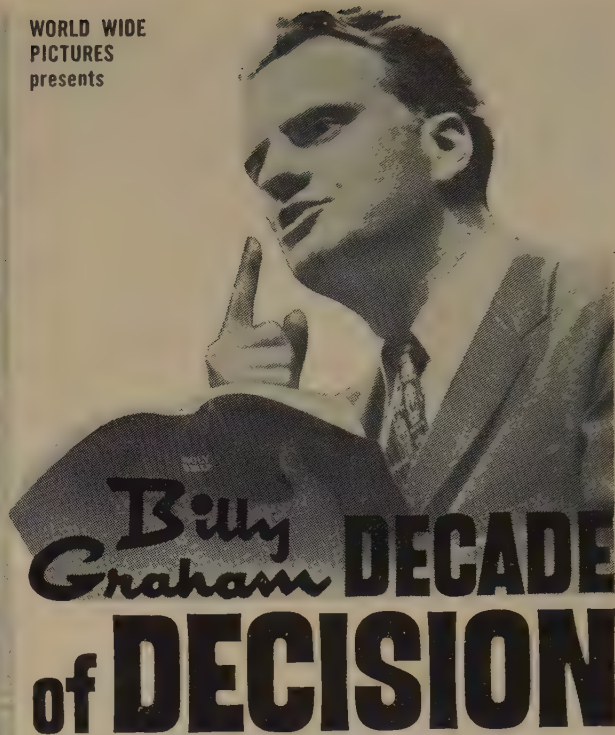
Or use it in your Sunday evening or weekday youth meeting, high school department, Sunday school, PTA, mothers' meeting or Sunday school Christmas program.

Teenage Christmas is a 16 mm sound film, runs 30 minutes and is available in color or black and white.

Condensed, the story is available as a full-color filmstrip entitled *Teenagers Learn About Christmas* (K42), also produced by Family Films (52 frames, 12-



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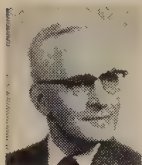
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Martyrdom Speaks Again

SIX BOOKS and numerous magazine and newspaper articles have been written as a result of the death of the five young missionaries murdered several years ago by savage Aucas Indians in Ecuador. God has used these to stir the hearts of thousands of Christians to pray for missionaries and the Aucas and challenged young people to go to hard places with the Gospel.

I have read several of the books and many of the articles. I've prayed for the wives, the Aucas, the other missionaries in the area. The story is now old. I don't remember to pray as often.

At the NSSA convention in Detroit's Cobo Hall last October, along with thousands of other tired Sunday school workers, I stayed after an evening service to see the new film *Through Gates of Splendor*, narrated by Betty Elliott, wife of one of the martyrs.

Even though I knew the story and was physically tired, the film brought a fresh challenge to me personally.

The story was taken from two books by Betty Elliott: *Through Gates of Splendor* and *The Savage My Kinsman*. Some of the film was shot by the men shortly before they were killed. The last part shows Betty and her daughter living among and teaching the Aucas about God and His Son, the Savior. It is a thrilling story—one to challenge youth and adults.

It is produced by Sacred Cinema (Good News Productions), is a 16 mm sound film in color and runs 36 minutes.

How To Get Wide Use of A-V's

Merely purchasing good visual aids won't guarantee their use. Teachers must know where they are.

Every teacher and superintendent should have a list of all visual aids available, brought up to date quarterly with addition of a sheet of new purchases. Some list the title of each aid, what it is (flannelgraph, filmstrip), ages it may be used for, and date of lesson covering the subject for each age group.

In addition, weekly or monthly reminders to teachers should be distributed. Some schools list aids a teacher may use two weeks or a month in advance and request reservations to be in one or two weeks in advance of date of use.

Teachers may pick up the materials from the A-V library or the A-V librarian may deliver them to the classrooms.

Materials may be checked out in the same manner as library books.

All materials should be thoroughly checked when returned to make sure they are in good repair, all pieces in the packet, etc., so each will be ready for use by others.

NO ROOM

Continued from page 29

Someone noticed the strange white woman and stopped to gaze. Then another stopped, and another. From the gathering crowd a little man dressed in white linen popped up at my side.

"I'm from the Chamber of Commerce," he announced importantly. "Can I help you?"

"Just send these people away," I pleaded. "I've lost my husband."

"I see," he commented. "Now just where did you lose him?"

"Send them away," I pleaded, ignoring his Sherlock Holmes questioning. "I can't breathe."

Had I been an older and wiser missionary, I never would have asked him to disperse the crowd. When he told them I was sick and needed air, it only increased their curiosity, and others joined them.

But this was a blessing in disguise. The crowd attracted a passer-by—a young Chinese clothed only in coolie shorts, with a dirty towel flung over his shoulder. He pushed past the people to my self-appointed helper.

"I know where her husband is. He is on the street above this one. I saw him."

"Go get him," I pleaded.

To me, it seemed an eternity before my husband arrived with this yellow angel of mercy. I cried and clung to him, making a strange show of myself to these people who would never think of embracing in public.

"What will we do?" I implored, still clinging to him. "There are no rooms."

"Do you want to stay here while I go back and look some more?"

"No! No!" I cried frantically. "Don't leave me again."

"Okay, sweetheart, I won't. I just didn't want to see you walk any farther. I guess we'll have to go on, though, to shake this crowd."

Slowly I got up from the low stone wall. "Where do we go from here?" I asked wearily.

"Let's stop in this tea house and decide," my husband suggested.

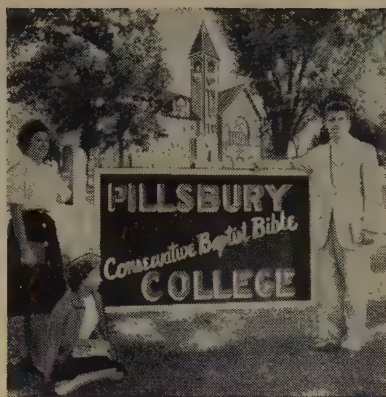
A hot sticky night, a radio blaring out Oriental minors, round wooden tables with dirty tablecloths, boys sauntering back and forth on wooden keks, flies hovering over the glass case of sponge cakes—but who was particular at that hour of night?

The food began to pour strength into my body. Maybe there was a solution to our problem after all.

And then I looked up. Policemen! They wanted to know all about Uncle Henry and great-grandfather again.

"We've already filled out these same forms four times tonight," my husband told them.

"Who are you, and what are you



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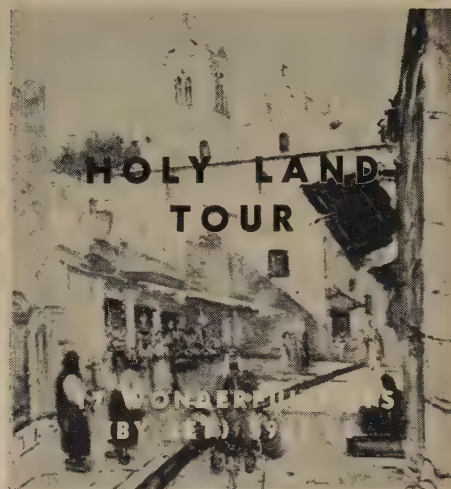


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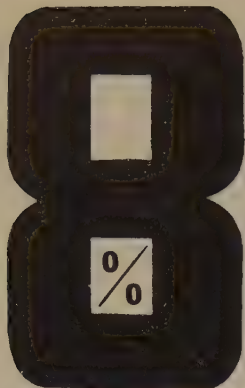
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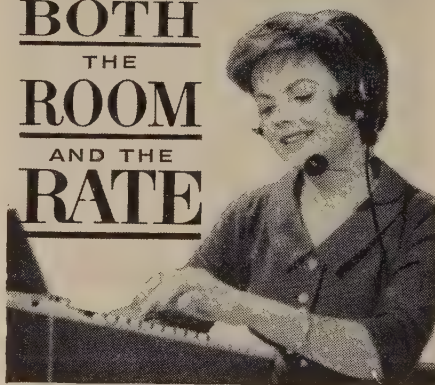
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doing here this time of night?" they asked suspiciously.

"We're missionaries on our way to Wuchow, and we can't find a hotel room."

"Oh, that's simple. We can find you one in a hurry. Come on," commanded the officer. "It's just around the corner."

In the next block the answer was the same as it had been before, "No room!" Again and again it was the same answer. The policemen couldn't believe their ears.

I sank on the steps of a large building and announced firmly, "I am not going a step farther until there is a room. I can't walk anymore."

The policemen tried to urge me on as they would a stubborn old mule. But I refused to move. They continued the search alone, not returning until twelve o'clock.

The room they had found was nothing more than a hole in the wall, but it did boast a set of bedboards and one bamboo stool. The stench of toilets filled the room. The water in the wash basin was the color of mud. The hum of the mosquitos made a sound like a sawmill. But it was a place off the streets.

My husband sat and fanned me, and sometime between then and dawn I dozed off. When I awoke the sun was streaming into the room.

Our Chinese cook had finally located us. As she walked into the room she announced excitedly, "There is one missionary in this town and I found out where she lives."

"A missionary," I breathed reverently. "Oh, I hope she will take us in."

Yes, she would she told us a short time later. She didn't have anything fancy to offer, but she gladly shared what she had.

My bath was from a wash basin with cold water. I washed and washed. When I lay down on the soft bed with a mattress. I caressed the clean sheets.

I shall never forget the emptiness of those words and the chill they brought to my heart, I thought as I lay there. "No room in the inn."

But sometimes, I am afraid, I do forget. It's so easy to get mixed up in Christmas wrappings, and baking cookies, and giving parties, and, yes, even in attending Christmas services at church. Then I wonder. Does He come to my heart and find written across it those cold, chilling words, "No room?"

My baby was born two weeks later in a comfortable Chinese hospital, and not in a stable as was Mary's that night long ago. But I know now what distress and anguish those stern, hard words can produce, and my fervent Christmas pledge is, "Oh come to my heart, Lord Jesus; There is room in my heart for Thee."

Ω

"My writing PAYS OFF DAILY."



Your course spurred me on.
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speaks to 5,000 people—yet
a printed message reaches
from 5,000 to 500,000."

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by Jack McCabe, Advertising Director

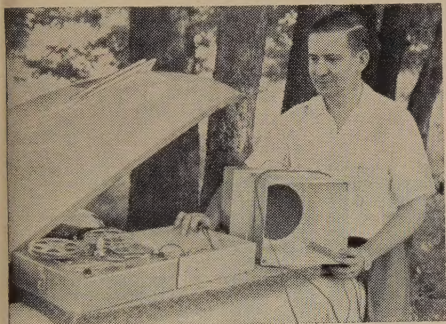
● The other day I was talking to R. G. Stevens, senior media director of **Young & Rubicam**, a Chicago advertising agency, about an advertisement they published which read in part as follows:

"I am in advertising and I believe in it. I believe in advertising as a worthwhile career, but more importantly as a force for good in a free economy. I know of no more significant opportunity than telling an honest public about an honest product."

It is our belief here at **CHRISTIAN LIFE** that we must encourage our readers through our editorial columns. But we would be most unfair to you if we did not also show you how to take advantage of the helpful products and services presented in the advertising columns. Hence this column.

At the same time, you must remember that editorial costs, printing and other expenses far exceed the price you pay for a subscription. Thus the advertising revenue helps in a direct way to provide you with a bigger and better **CHRISTIAN LIFE** each month. This is advertising.

We are glad so many use the *free* Readers' Inquiry card. We are especially grateful when you also take time to mention **CHRISTIAN LIFE** when writing manufacturers, publishers, missions and others.

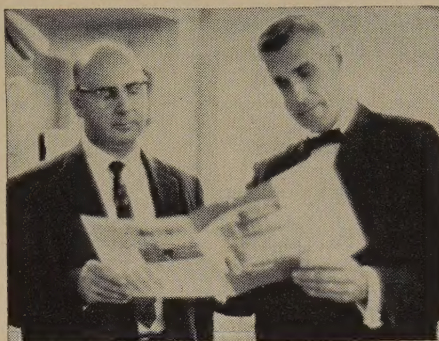
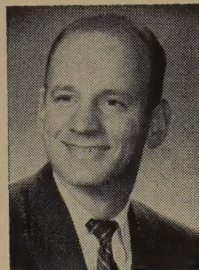


H. C. Lindahl demonstrates portable tape player powered by car battery. Transistorized unit operates 150 hours before motor need be started.

● An afternoon of testing and discussing uses of their portable Tape Player at **Audio & Electronics, Inc.** leads me to recommend that you get full details of this efficient method of hour by hour proclamation of your message in spoken word and song. The "Audio Missionary" can be set up in seconds and plays hundreds of hours. The volume from the folding speaker is sufficient to be heard by a large crowd. Four hours' recording can be contained on a 5" reel. Plays indefinitely by automatic reversal. Programs are available in major languages or tape your own. Weighs less than 26 lbs. **H-3.**

[For more information about items listed, circle appropriate number on Readers Service Card.]

● Well known in Christian book and Sunday literature field, Mr. James V. Hummel, has been named General Manager of **Lambert Huffman, Publishers**, Winona Lake, Ind. Prior experience includes six years with **Union Gospel Press**, Cleveland, Ohio. Mr. Hummel will be available for convention workshops in which he has appeared frequently at both state and national level. As a workshop leader he specializes in contests, promotion and attendance building. **H-4.**



MCCabe and Howat discuss using church buses to advantage at Chicago meeting.

● One of the most obvious means to increase Sunday school attendance is to "go out into the highways and byways and compel them to come in." This is in effect what we do when we operate a Sunday school bus. We go get the children who would not be encouraged or able otherwise to attend. In talking this over with Bruce Howat, publisher of *School Bus Transportation Magazine*, it developed that while a used bus can be a good buy, a new bus as provided by **Blue Bird, Oneida, Carpenter, Superior, Wayne, Ward or Perly Thomas** is a long-term but profitable investment. Buses last 12 years or longer with proper care. Check **H-2** for school bus information.

● While in Detroit at the National Sunday School Association I noted with interest that **R. H. Stone Products** displayed one foot cube wooden blocks (with boards) and huge fiber play blocks that provide kindergarten age children with a new concept in play materials. These products are ideal for your Sunday school "play-time" and work well for VBS projects, too. Check **H-1** for information on these and other products.

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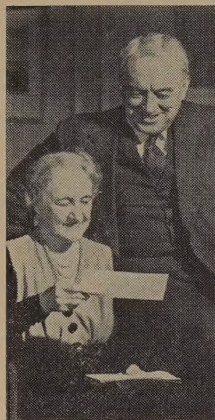
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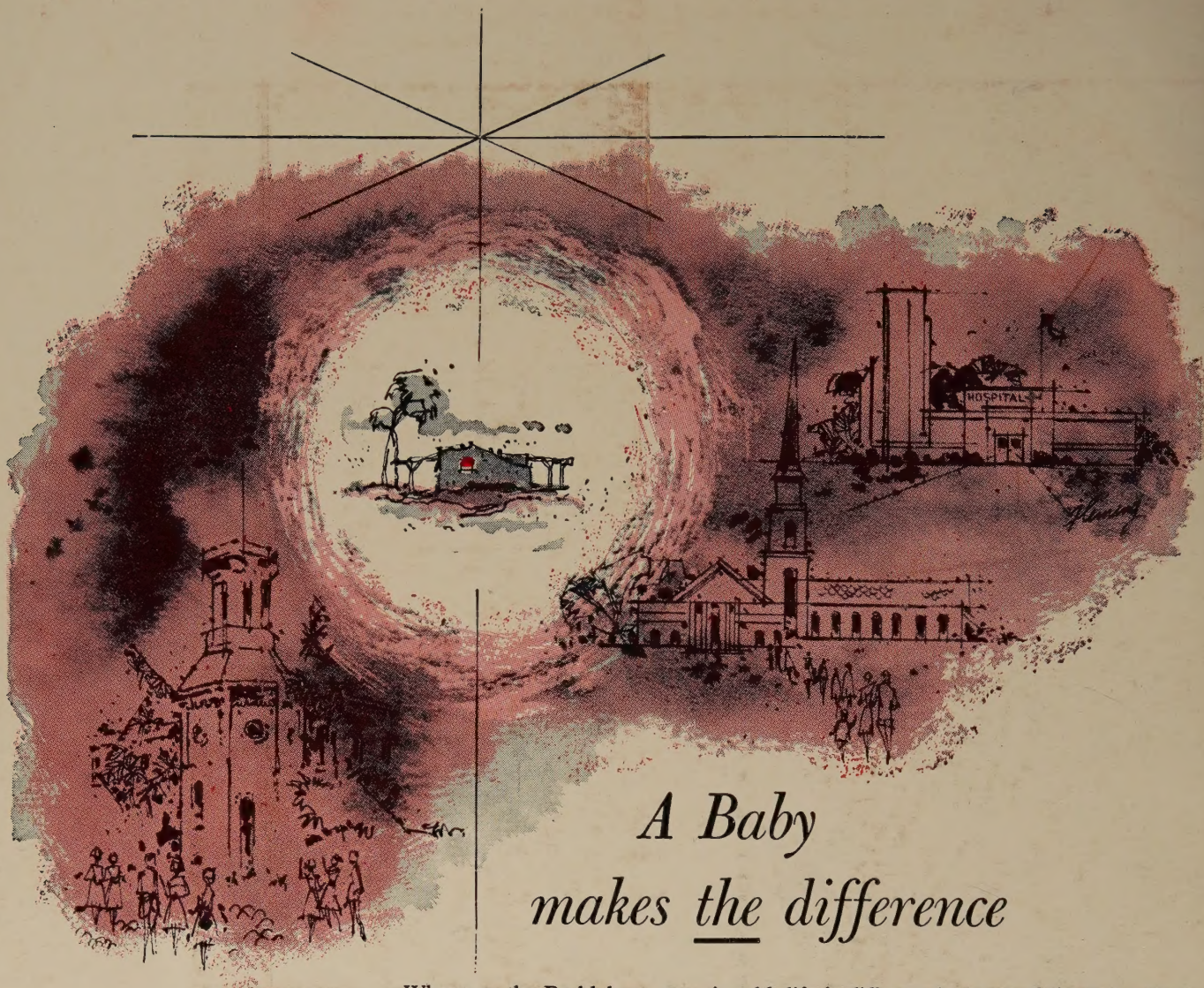
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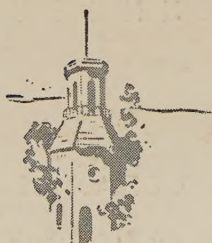
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helping us to proclaim
this message through lads
and lassies who have gone
forth into God's glad
service everywhere.*



*"For Christ and His Kingdom"
Since 1860*

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Bethlehem's Babe became the Man of Sorrow and of Grief, upon whom the Almighty laid the iniquity of us all.

*"He that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how
shall He not with Him also give us all things?"*

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